Saturday, November 29, 2014

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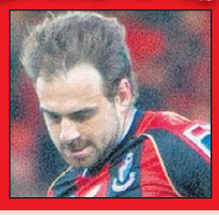
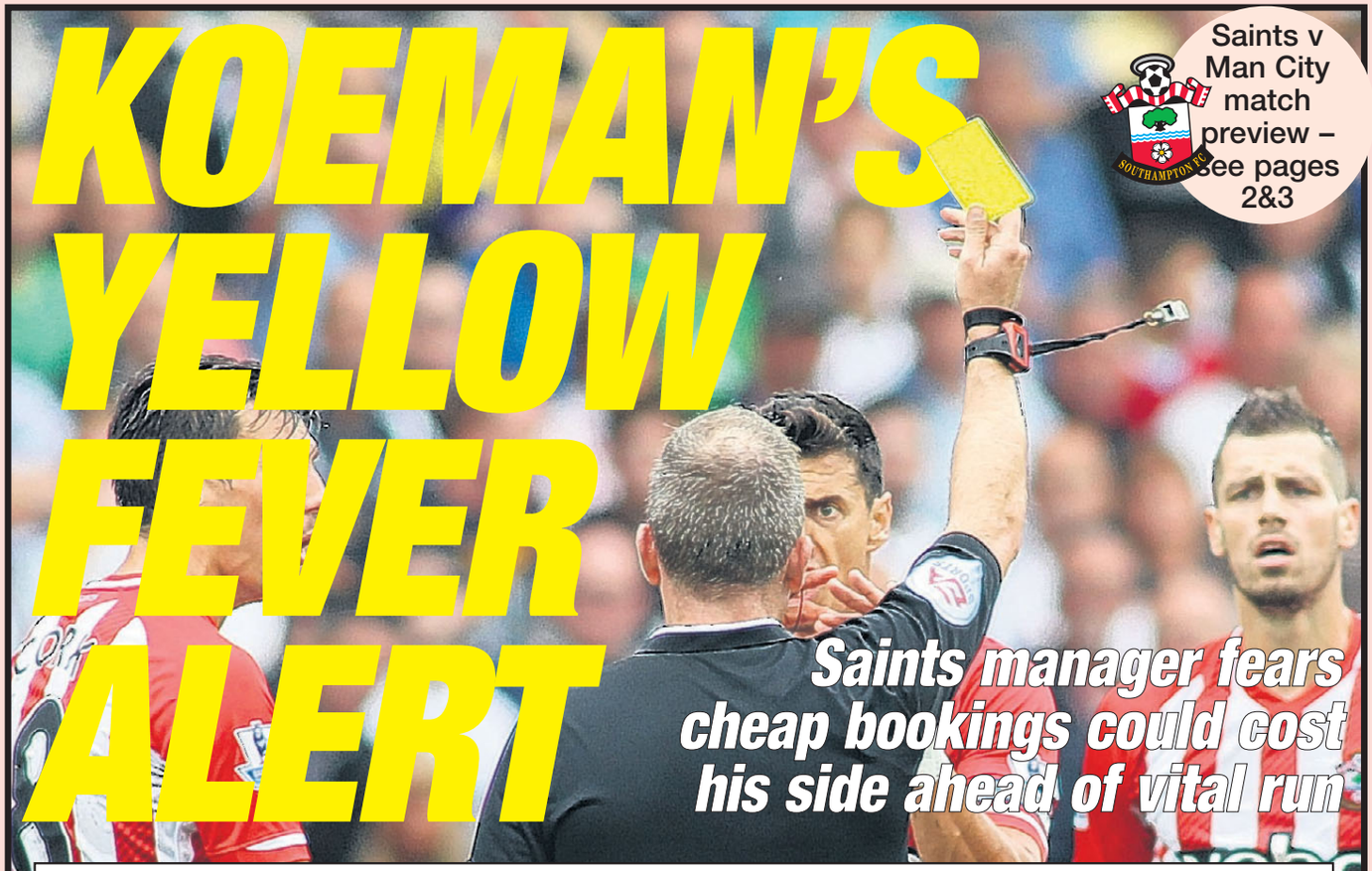
CHERRIES FAIL TO TAME THE LIONS



Bournemouth v Millwall match report – see page 4

KOEMAN'S YELLOW FEVER ALERT



Saints manager fears cheap bookings could cost his side ahead of vital run

Saints v Man City match preview – See pages 2&3

RONALD Koeman has hit out at the system of suspensions in England and warned his players not to pick up cheap yellow cards ahead of a vital run of games.

Adam Leitch
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CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

Saints this weekend start a huge triple header as they host Manchester City on Sunday, before a midweek trip to Arsenal and then the visit of Manchester United to St Mary's.

It is part of 11 games in 42 days that is set to stretch the Saints squad to the limit.

Saints head into these matches with Graziano Pelle and Morgan Schneiderlin both only one yellow card away from collecting a fifth of the season and with it a one game ban.

With both men so important to Saints to lose either would be a huge blow.

Koeman (pictured) is particularly frustrated at the situation surrounding Pelle.

The big striker has received three of his four bookings in the Capital One Cup, but still one more caution could rule him out of a Premier League game.

Koeman made his feelings about the system quite clear, while also reminding his players not to take needless bookings.

"Don't make stupid faults, don't take your shirt off if you score," he said.

"If it's a fault that benefits the team then OK, I have to accept. No problem.

"But don't make stupid faults because you have to be clever in those situations.

"Schneiderlin is a player who likes to press, who likes winning battles in midfield and that's sometimes part of the job.

"What I don't agree is they count all the yellow cards – in League Cup and later on in FA Cup - and with five you are suspended. If you are out of the League Cup or FA Cup it's not the same because you play the same and have less risk of yellow cards.

"It's a different competition.

"Yellow cards (should) count for League Cup and not the Premier League. That's not straight. It's a different competition.

"I agree if you get a red card and then you are suspended for the next games, but yellow cards. Pelle has four yellow cards, three in the League Cup."

CRICKET

Stars pay tribute to Phil Hughes
See pages 32-35

SAINTS

Exclusive Terry Paine column
See page 9

NON-LEAGUE

Spitfire Todd speaks his mind
See pages 24-27

CYCLO-CROSS

Hargroves speeds to victory
See page 37

WIN £15,000 WITH FIND THE BALL – SEE PAGE 45

Saints Spotlight

England beat Australia in vital victory

ENGLAND held their nerve in the face of a second-half fight-back by Australia to end a frustrating autumn with a vital 26-17 victory at Twickenham.

The Wallabies trailed 13-3 at half-time after man of the match Ben Morgan had crossed and George Ford had kicked two penalties and a conversion – but they struck back with touchdowns through Bernard Foley and Will Skelton.

Only Morgan's second try and Ford's timely readjustment of his sights after missing two penalties enabled England to emerge triumphant from a finely-poised second half that saw two well matched teams exchange blows.

If the game is a pointer to the showdown between the group rivals at next year's World Cup, then a nerve-shredding night awaits at Twickenham on October 3 that England surely enter as favourites.

Victory, only their second in seven games, offers a measure of redemption after three-point losses to New Zealand and South Africa earlier in the QBE Series - and it was their finest performance of the month by some margin.

The Australian team participated in a minute of applause as a mark of respect to cricketer Phil Hughes

After Samoa were despatched 28-9 last weekend, momentum has now been generated ahead of their next outing with Wales - who are also Group A opponents at England 2015 - awaiting in Cardiff in February's RBS 6 Nations opener.

Ford is likely to continue at fly-half following another composed performance headlined by a 16-point haul, although he was not given the same space to exploit afforded by the Pacific Islanders.

The Wallabies will have drawn comfort from the encounter themselves after proving they have the magic to unpick England's defence and will arrive at the World Cup with the belief they can upset the hosts, while also knowing their set-piece remains a source of grave concern.

I'VE NO FEAR WEEK

POSTIVE: Ronald Koeman

RONALD Koeman says he is not afraid of what the next week holds for Saints.

After such a wonderful start to the season that has seen Saints push themselves to second in the Premier League table, the club have a huge hat-trick of games.

They welcome Manchester City and United to St Mary's with the small matter of a trip to the Emirates to face Arsenal sandwiched in between.

It's a daunting set of fixtures, and some are worried that the Saints bubble might burst.

Not though Koeman, who is as cool as ever heading into a decisive period of the season that will surely tell whether Saints can challenge for a top four place or will sink back down the division.

"I feel happy and not afraid for this week," smiled Koeman.

"I am positive and I know that we have a strong team and that we can beat everyone in the Premier League and we have to show it and it's football, you never know.

"You have to prepare yourselves, to keep your way of playing and don't change if the opponent is City.

"We know that we have a lot of points already, we know that.

"It's a good feeling because then you will be not under pressure.

"We put our pressure because we think that we can do better than last season.

"That's the target, in my opinion, and we will see if we reach that."

Perhaps last Monday night's game against Aston Villa game shows just exactly where Saints' ambitions lie this year.

The thinking generally is that a point away from home is a good result in the Premier League and yet, despite trailing for much of the game, Saints were disappointed to leave Villa Park with only a point.

"We are growing up because everybody was a little bit disappointed after last Monday and that says a lot because it's not a bad result a draw away against Villa but we had a little bit of a feeling it was not good enough today," reflected Koeman.

> "I am positive and I know we have a strong team and can beat everyone

"That's a good quality to realise that and that means a lot but it's nice to show the qualities and it's always more attention if you play City at home than another team.

"We showed a great character in the team game because we were 1-0 down and we had the confidence in our style and trying to score the goal and had patience until the end of the game and that was important because if you are losing the game you are a bit more in a hurry and lose good organisation in the team and we didn't and that way very positive.

"The feeling after 1-1 was OK because we understand we don't beat everyone so easily and you have to fight and we had a big mistake for 1-0 but we kept the spirit in the team and the character in the team until the last minute and that was very positive."

Koeman believes Saints are coming up against sides who may now tinker their own sys-

FULL MATCH REPORT, PICTURES AND REACTION FROM

Saints Spotlight

OF WHAT THE MIGHT HOLD

tem to try and blunt their attacking threat.

"Of course. If you saw how Villa played it as not very offensive. It was defending.

"OK, if they think that's the best way, OK. It was a draw.

"Opponents watching Southampton know now more than after the first game the qualities of Southampton and that's normal. We like to do the same and we have to do the same.

"They respect and they know the qualities and maybe they are more prepared than Liverpool was in the first game of the season."

As well as the physical challenges of playing three such massive games in just nine days, there is also the mental aspect to consider and the pressure Saints' stars will be under.

It's something the likes of City are accustomed to,

"It's difficult because they have that experience and we don't have that experience," admitted Koeman.

"We have experience in the Premier League but we don't have the experience that you play every three days on a high level.

"They are always under pressure in the Champions League and Premier League and fight for the title and if they lose they have critics and they are used to that. The coach is very experienced and it's not a problem."

Certainly these matches are going to test Saints.

Koeman is taking a relaxed approach though and refusing to look any further ahead than the next game.

"You can't plan in football," he insisted.

"If there are two days between the first and the second game there is no problem.

"Of course if you play three games in one week then we will not take a big risk with some players who are not 100 per cent because you prefer they are good for the next game.

"We prepared ourselves for Sunday and then we work to Arsenal and after Wednesday we think about United but nothing else."

He also confessed it was new territory for him as it is something he hasn't experienced before.

"No because in Holland you don't play that kind of games in one week.

"The schedule is made and we know from the beginning of the season our programme and we know we have a tough December month but for everybody.

"The big teams have to play in Europe, keep going in the Premier League and we have the quarter-final against Sheffield Untied for the Capital One Cup.

"It will be good if we don't have injuries because it would be more easy."

Koeman is just hoping his side can avoid losing major players during this busy period.

If they can then they have a real chance of achieving something very special.

"The squad is strong enough but if you will have a big problem with injuries and a lot of players out then it will be difficult because then we know we don't have the qualities that the big teams do in the squad," he said.

"We have young players, still not on the level and need experience. We know that."

SCORE DRAW: Nathaniel Clyne celebrates his goal against Aston Villa

Three out of three for van Gaal's side

MANCHESTER United made it three wins in a row for the first time in almost a year as Louis van Gaal's men put Hull City to the sword with a 3-0 win at Old Trafford.

Chris Smalling scrambled the ball home to give United a 16th-minute lead before Wayne Rooney made it 2-0 three minutes before the break. Robin van Persie fired into the top corner for only his fourth goal in 12 games but there was some bad injury news for Van Gaal as record signing Angel di Maria limped off early on.

The win saw United maintain their fourth place which had been under threat when Danny Welbeck's thumping header saw Arsenal take all three points in the lunchtime kick-off at West Brom.

The Gunners dominated but only managed a 1-0 win, thanks to Welbeck's fourth Premier League goal of the season in the 60th minute, while Saido Berahino came closest for the Baggies but his header struck the bar.

Newcastle's hopes of winning seven league matches on the trot for the first time since Kevin Keegan was in charge came unstuck against one of their former managers.

Sam Allardyce's West Ham took the honours winning 1-0 thanks to Aaron Creswell's 55th-minute shot, with the Magpies' task not being helped by Moussa Sissoko being sent off for a second booking.

Liverpool were also celebrating a 1-0 win at home to Stoke where Glen Johnson's brave header five minutes from time brought some welcome relief to manager Brendan Rodgers.

Burnley's decent form continued with a 1-1 draw at home to Aston Villa but the Clarets were grateful to an 87th-minute penalty from Danny Ings after Lukas Jutkiewicz had been fouled.

QPR lifted themselves off the bottom of the table after emerging 3-2 victors over fellow strugglers Leicester.

Esteban Cambiasso gave the visitors the lead with a sweet finish in the eighth minute, before a Wes Morgan own goal saw QPR draw level. Leroy Fer grabbed the lead for the hosts just before the break only for Jeffrey Schlupp to equalise in the 67th minute. It was left to Charlie Austin, with his fifth goal in five games, to snatch the points for Harry Redknapp's side with a close-range header.

It finished all square in Wales between Swansea and Crystal Palace, where Neil Warnock's visitors battled back to secure a 1-1 draw.

SOUTHAMPTON V MAN CITY IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

Cherries Spotlight

Derby stay top despite Leeds defeat

ELSEWHERE in the Championship, promotion rivals Derby remain top but failed to make it four league runs in a row after a brace from Leeds striker Mirco Antenucci was enough secure a 2-0 win and halt the Rams' charge.

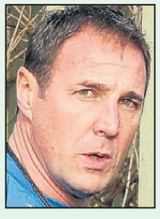
On-loan Leeds striker Noel Hunt helped Ipswich elsewhere with the only goal as the Tractor Boys stole a late win at Charlton in the day's early kick-off. Hunt's first goal since January 2013 pushes them to within a point of the league leaders.

David Cotterill (pictured) and Paul Caddis were on target for Birmingham as they edged past Nottingham Forest 2-1. Fulham also nicked the same scoreline at Brighton courtesy of goals from Hugo Rodallega and Lasse Vigen Christensen with Darren Bent scoring on debut for the home side

Brentford maintained their good run of form as they thrashed Wolves 4-0 at Griffin Park. Alan Judge, Stuart Dallas, Andre Gray and Ramallo Jota were all on the scoresheet to keep the Bees in touch with the top two.

Rudy Gestede rescued a point for Blackburn as his stoppage-time strike cancelled out Patrick Bamford's effort, holding Middlesbrough to a 1-1 draw at the Riverside Stadium.

Bolton's resurgence under new boss Neil Lennon continued as Craig Davies' strike was enough to down Huddersfield 1-0. Cardiff claimed a win at Watford by the same margin courtesy of an Adam Le Fondre goal.



Former Cardiff manager Malky Mackay (left) tasted his first defeat as Wigan boss as they were edged out 2-1 by Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough. A Stevie May brace cancelled out Chris McCann's strike.

Steven Davies' late strike rescued a point for Blackpool in their 1-1 draw at Rotherham, who had led through Jordan Bowery, while a Jake Cooper brace cancelled out Gary Hooper's strike and gave Reading a much needed 2-1 win away at Norwich.

GOALSCORER: Steve Cook netted Bournemouth's opener

LIONS ROAR BACK TO STUN CHERRIES

MAGAYE Gueye came off the bench to grab a dramatic late equaliser for Millwall as Cherries surrendered a 2-0 lead at Dean Court today, *writes NEIL PERRETT.*

First-half goals from defender Steve Cook and recalled striker Brett Pitman had put Cherries on course to mark boss Eddie Howe's 300th game with a win.

But a stirring second-half comeback from the visitors saw them earn a share of the spoils thanks to goals in the final 15 minutes from Ed Upson and Gueye.

Cook gave Cherries the lead midway through the first half when he arrived at the far post to head home Andrew Surman's exquisite cross.

And Pitman quickly doubled their advantage when he slipped the ball past the despairing dive of David Forde following a superb pass from Matt Ritchie.

Ed Upson's header 15 minutes from time set up a grandstand finish and Gueye netted late on to salvage a share of the spoils for the Lions.

Leading goalscorer Callum Wilson failed a late fitness test and was ruled out due to his hamstring injury with his place in the Cherries starting line-up going to Pitman.

Cook went close to breaking the deadlock in the eighth minute when his unopposed header following a Pitman corner flashed past the post with Millwall goalkeeper Forde rooted to the spot.

Forde raced off his line to beat Pitman to Harry Arter's raking through ball before Lions defender Mark Beevers sliced Ritchie's dangerous cross sliced past his own upright.

Ritchie's curling effort in the 16th minute had Forde beaten all ends up, only to fly narrowly past the post before Yann Kermorgant squandered a great chance to score.

The Frenchman climbed above the Millwall defence to meet a Simon Francis cross but his powerful header cleared the crossbar before Pitman's downward header was pushed over the top by Forde.

Cherries were rewarded for their early domination when Cook arrived at the far post to nod home a dinked centre from Andrew Surman, the midfielder displaying some silky skills in the lead up to the goal.

Pitman doubled Cherries' lead three minutes later when he finished with aplomb after Ritchie's electrifying run and cleverly-disguised pass had teed him up for his sixth of the season.

Cherries went close to grabbing a third when Francis traded passes with Ritchie before rifling a venomous right-foot strike into the side netting.

Interval substitute Ricardo Fuller clipped a shot past the near post following a corner early in the second half before Martyn Woolford glanced a header past the post following a free-kick.

Upson nodded straight into the hands of Artur Boruc after getting on the end of a Woolford corner before Cherries' on-loan goalkeeper parried Alan Dunne's piledriver.

The visitors halved the deficit with 15 minutes remaining when Upson nipped in front of his marker to plant a header into the bottom corner after meeting Jermaine Easter's high cross.

Cherries had an escape when Boruc almost carried the ball over the line after Lee Gregory had met an Easter corner before a Junior Stanislas effort was chalked out for offside.

Substitute Gueye drilled in the equaliser with an unstoppable strike after Cherries had failed to clear their lines with two minutes remaining.

Cherries: Boruc, Francis, Cook, Elphick, Daniels, Ritchie, Arter (O'Kane, 65), Surman, Pugh (Stanislas, 61), Kermorgant (Fraser, 78), Pitman.

Unused subs: Gosling, Smith, Cargill, Camp (g/k).

Booked: Pugh.

Lions: Forde, Dunne, Webster, Beevers (Fuller, h-t), Malone, Martin (Easter, 19), Williams, McDonald, Upson, Woolford (Gueye, 75), Gregory.

Unused subs: Powell, Martinez, Shittu, King (g/k).

Booked: Upson, Woolford, Webster.

Referee: Andy Davies (Hampshire).

Attendance: 10,016 (inc 991 away supporters).

CHERRIES & POMPEY FIXTURES - SEE PAGES 26 & 27

Non-league Action

UNBEATEN RUN OVER

Ben Strevens in action for Eastleigh against Torquay

GOALS by Toby Ajala and Ryan Bowman at either end of this encounter at Plainmoor bookended a ferociously competitive clash, and secured all three points for Torquay, *writes PAUL MCNAMARA.*

The game began at a rare pace and within 60 seconds the Gulls' top scorer Bowman was presented with a gilt-edged opening. Dean Beckwith, returning from a three match ban, had a forward ball intercepted by Luke Young, the ricochet sending Bowman away on goal.

Ross Flitney hared from his line to narrow the angle and managed to turn the striker's effort past his left-post.

Bowman was involved again on five minutes when Torquay made the breakthrough. Louis Briscoe flicked on Krystian Pearce's clearance from defence, allowing Bowman to gather and find Ajala on the left. The ex-AFC Wimbledon man dipped infield, running at Will Evans, before unleashing a low shot across Flitney and into the right corner of goal.

Stuart Fleetwood had the Spitfires' first opportunity to reply, curling his ninth minute 25 yard-free-kick from the left of goal over a six man wall, but too high to trouble stopper Martin Rice.

With the away side gaining some footing, Jamie Collins stole possession off Courtney Richards high up the pitch, before passing right for Jack Midson, whose low blast was deflected behind by Gulls' left-back Levi Ives.

A flurry of Eastleigh pressure just past the half-hour mark brought Midson a glimpse of goal. Paul Reid, having seen his original wicked cross from the left swiped away by Pearce, kept play alive by heading the ball into Midson's path.

Under pressure from the advancing Rice, Midson couldn't get enough on his effort to force it over the line.

Eastleigh, though, were in trouble on 39 minutes after Evans was robbed as he tried to dribble his way past Ajala, who stole possession and slipped the ball inside. Reid got across to make a tremendous tackle on Briscoe, but Richards pounced to turn a sharp pass ahead of him and back to Briscoe. The ex-Mansfield man instantly prodded forward for Bowman who, 12 yards out and with time to pick his spot, blazed wastefully high and wide to the right of goal.

A minute before the break Midson glanced Fleetwood's cross wide of the target, so sending the teams in still separated by Ajala's goal.

Evans and Young, whose touch and passing illuminated much of his side's midfield play, traded efforts that were pulled slightly off target in the early throes of the second period. Pearce then made a mess of trying to guide Young's free-kick, delivered from the left, towards goal, enabling Ben Strevens to nip in and see out the danger.

With the contest becoming increasingly fractious, chances were at a premium for a period, until the 69th minute when Fleetwood gathered a ball from Midson and switched play out to Strevens on the left. The ex-Barnet man rolled a pass back into Stanley, whose low drive was comfortably held by Rice.

With the action becoming ever more frenetic, and only fifteen minutes left on the clock, Young sent an 18 yard drive whistling past the left post. The ball was quickly back at the other end of the field, with Collins finding Constable, momentarily free in the box. Pearce recovered to ease the striker off the ball, only for McAllister to pick up the scraps and tee-up Collins, whose weak effort was blocked by Ives.

Visiting boss Richard Hill sent Ben Wright on for one last hurrah, Eastleigh shaping up with four attackers as they desperately sought a leveller. With five minutes to play, they came agonisingly close as McAllister charged in, meeting the ball flush on his head but slumping to the turf as his effort thumped back off the bar.

How the Spitfires would rue that decisive moment. Collins, seeking to drive his team forward, attempted to locate Dan Spence with an 87th minute pass to the left. Briscoe read the Eastleigh player's intentions and stole in, before driving up the right to hammer a shot at goal. Flitney produced a wonderful one-handed save, but the ball looped up perfectly for Bowman to apply the simplest of finishes for his eighth strike of the campaign.

At 2-0 the game was up, and Eastleigh's seven match unbeaten run, stretching back to October 4, is over.

Sholing dreams crushed

SHOLING held the lead for almost an hour over Farnborough from two leagues above but their FA Trophy dreams were crushed in the second half as the Conference South side came back to win 2-1 in their third qualifying round tie at the Silverlake Arena today.

Alex Sawyer's header gave the Boatman the lead on seven minutes but a Feye Okenbarhie penalty, after Mike Bryne had fouled, and a debut goal for new signing from Bromley, Duncan Culley, gave Spencer Day's side the win – their third in a row.

The FA Vase holders, who have been in good form of late under Dave Diaper's leadership, gave a good account of themselves. The heroics of stand-in goalkeeper Rory Anderson were especially impressive.

But in the end, the Southern League South & West side couldn't keep up their rate of performance and will feel hard-done-by not to come away with anything.

The first half mainly consisted of a battle in midfield. As the break approached Farnborough started to turn the screw as they made their Conference calibre tell.

For the most part Sholing were resolute and worked hard for each other. The attacking trio of Sam Wilson, Dan Mason and Nick Watts battled hard against Boro's physical defence, on occasions being able string passes together.

At the other end Boatmen left-back Taurean Manders was tasked with dealing with the pace and trickery of winger Okenbarhie. The dinky Bermudian-born defender was in trouble on a couple of occasions as the powerful Okenbarhie ran in behind.

Manders did manage to frustrate his marker at other times and kept Boro's biggest threat quiet with dogged defending.

The opening goal came in the seventh minute as Dan Mason broke clear or the right wing.

His cross found Sawyer in the six yard box. With the Boro defence seemingly nowhere to be seen, the midfield man planted a header to the near post. It dodged the outstretched arm of visiting stopper Dillon Barnes and into the net.

Farnborough went looking for an equaliser but it was Dave Diaper's side that went closest. Kevin Brewster, known as a free kick specialist, curled two free kicks at goal, both from around 25 yards out.

The first was fumbled by Barnes but he managed to smother it as the Sholing attack rushed-on. The second was held by the stopper.

Barnes's opposite number Anderson was also in action, pulling off some superb reaction saves. Louie Theophanous, on the Boro left, slammed one at Anderson, but the dual-signed Brockenhurst stopper held well. Harry Grant then hit one to his near post, again, he was down well to save again.

From the half hour, Spencer Day's side went on the hunt for a goal. Jack Smith and Sawyer at the heart of the Boatmen midfield worked hard to cut-out the onslaught. TJ Cuthbertson and Byrne were patrolled the backline effectively, cutting out any danger.

As the half came to a close Anderson saved a Theophanous shot from the edge of the box. The giant killing was on. Farnborough didn't look like scoring, especially with Anderson's performance.

However, the giant killing was well and truly off in the second half. Boro's physicality and fitness started to tell as the Boatmen were restricted to breakaway attacks.

GOING CLOSE: Farnborough keeper Dillon Barnes spills Kevin Brewster's free kick but TJ Cuthbertson can't quite get to the rebound.

The breakthrough that Boro had been hunting for finally happened when Sholing centre back Byrne was penalised for challenge on Arnau, who was on a surging run into the box.

The referee was in no doubt and pointed to the spot. The subsequent spot-kick was converted by Okenbarhie. Manders and Byrne were both booked for their parts in the penalty and build-up.

The winner arrived with 15 minutes left. Substitute Culley hit first time as the ball came in from Okenbarhie. It wasn't a clean contact by any extent and it almost bounced off his standing foot – curling into the bottom right corner from 12 yards out.

What followed was an onslaught of attack from Boro. Anderson was sublime in the Boatmen net, though.

Despite good pressure as the game closed out, the Boatmen couldn't pull-off the cup upset they'd been hoping for.

NON-LEAGUE NEWS ROUND-UP – STARTS ON PAGE 18

SAINTS LEGEND LE TISS HAS PERFECT PITCH

Matt Le Tissier officially opened the new state-of-the-art 3G pitch at Mountbatten School in Romsey

Young footballers try out Mountbatten School's new state-of-the-art 3G football pitch on the night it was officially opened by ex-Saints player Matt Le Tissier . Photos: Ian Hinchliffe

SAINTS legend Matt Le Tissier was at Mountbatten School in Romsey to officially open a new sports facility this week.

The project, which has seen a third generation (3G) artificial grass pitch (AGP) constructed at the Hampshire school, was made possible thanks to a £312,294 grant from the Premier League & The FA Facilities Fund and £12,500 from Test Valley Borough Council.

Le Tiss, who made 540 appearances and scored 209 goals for Saints, said: "much of Saints' recent success has been due to talented, young, home-grown players progressing from the academy into the first team.

"For that reason I'm so pleased to open this excellent new facility.

"High quality playing surfaces are vitally important in aiding the technical development of young players and now pupils at Mountbatten and local clubs will be able to reap the benefits. It's great to see money from the top of the professional game being invested into the grassroots and with facilities like these, I'm sure we'll see Southampton produce many more stars of the future."

The facility, which will be open to use for the general public, will provide greater sporting opportunities for young pople in Romsey.

"Our Mountbatten students and all local primary school children are now able to enjoy year round sporting opportunities,"said Mountbatten's executive head-teacher, Heather McIlroy, said.

Excited children turned out in droves at Mountbatten School in Romsey to catch a glimpse of ex-Saints player Matt Le-Tissier open their new state-of-the-art 3G pitch.

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SOUTHERN Daily Echo

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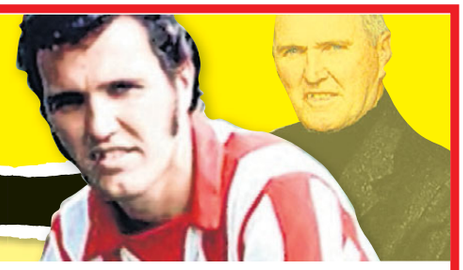
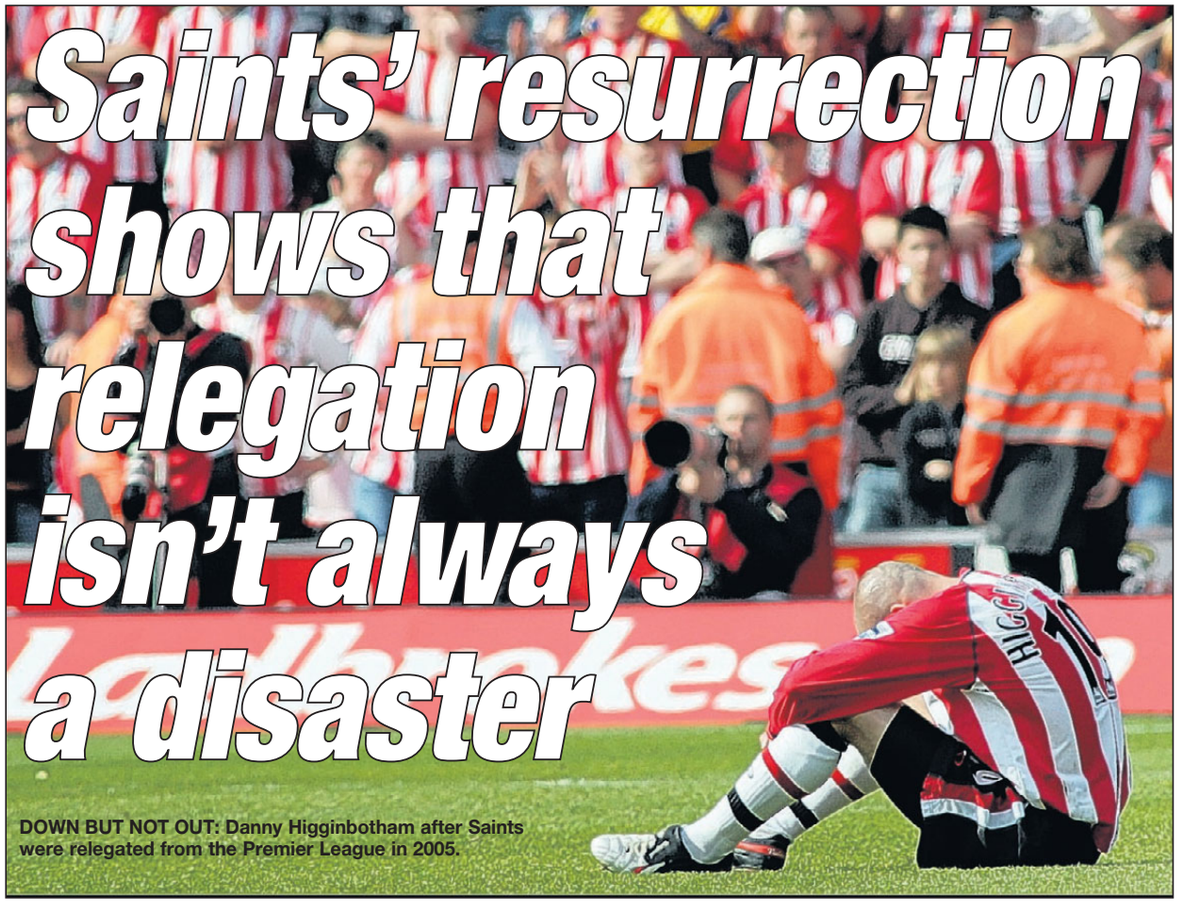
Paine's World

The Saints legend's EXCLUSIVE column on all things football



Saints' resurrection shows that relegation isn't always a disaster



DOWN BUT NOT OUT: Danny Higginbotham after Saints were relegated from the Premier League in 2005.

FOR supporters of teams that perennially flirt with disaster, relegation is the ultimate fear, the final confirmation that the team you love is no longer good enough to compete with the elite.

As bad as it must feel to lose a seven-game final series, nothing in professional sport comes close to the misery of relegation.

But can relegation ever be a positive?

If there is one thing that might cushion the crushing blow, it is the hope that your team may be one of the lucky sides that makes a swift return to the top flight.

The controversial system of parachute payments, whereby teams relegated from the Premier League receive more than £60m in the following four years, means that demoted clubs have a financial advantage over many of their competitors in the Championship.

This results in many teams returning to the Premier League within that four-year period.

Some recent examples of this include Queens Park Rangers rebounding at the first time of asking last season and West Ham spending just one year in the Championship following relegation in 2011, while Newcastle themselves dominated the second tier in 2009/10.

What these teams have in common is that they tend to keep a large number of their important players.

Kevin Nolan scored 17 goals in Newcastle's Championship season and also captained West Ham, while Bobby Zamora scored the winner for them in the play-off final.

FLYING HIGH

Of the current Premier League teams, two of the more interesting recent histories come from Manchester City and Southampton.

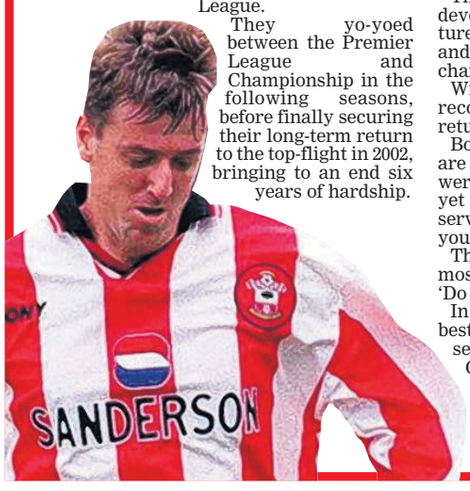
Though both teams are flying high this season, they have both been close to their lowest ebb in recent years.

Both founder members of the Premier League, Manchester City were the first of the two to suffer relegation – the magic of Georgi Kinkladze not enough to save them in 1996.

This was followed by further relegation in 1998 to the third tier of English football.

City fought back valiantly and achieved successive promotions back to the Premier League.

They yo-yoed between the Premier League and Championship in the following seasons, before finally securing their long-term return to the top-flight in 2002, bringing to an end six years of hardship.



Southampton's recovery, as we all know, took even longer.

After 27 years in the top flight of English football, we eventually succumbed to relegation in 2005, by which time the glory days of Matt Le Tissier (below, left) and Francis Benali were something of a distant memory.

Further indignation came in 2009 when the club fell into League One.

The first season there saw an important development, with Markus Liebherr (pictured right) taking ownership of the club and installing Nicola Cortese as executive chairman.

With new leadership installed, steady recovery commenced and the Saints returned to the top-flight in 2012.

Both Manchester City and Southampton are a world removed from the clubs they were when they crashed into the third tier, yet both were proud, established clubs and serve as an important reminder of how far you can slip in a short amount of time.

The situation that all supporters fear the most upon relegation is that their club will 'Do a Leeds'.

In the early 2000s, Leeds were one of the best young teams in England, reaching the semi-finals of the UEFA Cup and Champions League and putting serious pressure at the top of the table.

However, they were plagued by financial instability caused by serious mismanagement, and the fallout from this was crippling, both on and off the field.

By 2004, a still-talented Leeds team were relegated.

That exacerbated the financial situation and, instead of retaining their best talent as the teams that we discussed earlier did, Leeds were forced to sell anyone that they could receive a fee for, even going as far as selling their ground and training ground.

Despite their best efforts, financial hardship continued and administration followed in 2007, as Leeds were relegated to League One, forcing them to begin life in the third tier with a ten-point deduction.

They spent three years there, until 2010, when they returned to the Championship, where they have remained since.

FAMOUS

The ten years since Leeds were relegated have almost certainly been the worst of their existence.

Numerous attempts to encourage investment have yielded few results and the future doesn't look particularly rosy.

Leeds may be the most famous of the teams that have never returned to the Premier League, but there are many other cases, such as Coventry City, Bradford City, Swindon Town and Portsmouth, who have dropped even further, into League Two. In looking at these varying scenarios, do they give us any answer to the question, 'can relegation ever be positive'?

On the surface, the fortunes of the teams that have been relegated in recent years and rebounded quickly seem to have improved.

Newcastle are still unpredictable, but are a solid Premier League team and, with the right level of investment, could challenge for honours, while the same could be said of West Ham.

However, the positive stories seem to be outweighed by the negative.

Just one look at Leeds and Coventry City shows the long-term damage that relegation can inflict on a club.

Relegation remains the most feared fate in football with very good reason.

TURN TO PAGE 48 FOR ALL TODAY'S RESULTS

Saints Spotlight

SAINTS' FIRST TEAM FIXTURES AND RESULTS 2014/15

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
AUGUST															
Sat 17 Liverpool ....A	**L 1-2**	Forster	**Clyne 1**	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Schneiderlin	Wanyama	Tadic*	S Davis**	W-Prowse	Pelle	Long*	Isgrove**	
Sat 23 West Brom ....H	**D 0-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	Schneiderlin	Wanyama	Tadic	S Davis*	W-Prowse**	Pelle	Long*	Cork**	
Tues 26 Millwall (LC 2) ....A	**W 2-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Targett	S Davis	Wanyama**	Isgrove*	Long***	W-Prowse	**Pelle 1**	Tadic*	**Cork 1****	Ramirez***
Sat 30 West Ham ....A	**W 3-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida	Bertrand	**Schneiderlin 2**	S Davis	Tadic	W-Prowse**	Long*	**Pelle 1**	Ramirez*	Cork**	
SEPTEMBER															
Sat 13 Newcastle ....H	**W 4-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	**Cork 1*****	**Schneiderlin 1**	S Davis	Tadic**	Long*	**Pelle 2**	Wanyama*	W-Prowse**	Gardos***
Sat 20 Swansea ....A	**W 1-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Yoshida*	Bertrand	Cork**	Schneiderlin	W-Prowse***	Tadic	Long	Pelle	Gardos*	S Davis**	**Wanyama 1*****
Tues 23 Arsenal (LC3) ....A	**W 2-1**	Forster	**Clyne 1**	Fonte	Gardos	Targett**	Wanyama	Schneiderin	S Davis	**Tadic 1**	Mane*	Pelle	Long*	Bertrand**	
Sat 27 QPR ....H	**W 2-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	**Bertrand 1**	Wanyama**	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic***	Mane*	**Pelle 1**	Long*	Cork**	Targett***
OCTOBER															
Sun 5 Tottenham ....A	**L 0-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama*	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic	Mane	Pelle	Long*		
Sat 18 Sunderland ....H	**W 8-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	**Cork 1**	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	**Tadic 1**	Long**	**Pelle 2****	**Wanyama 1***	Mane**	Mayuka***
Sat 25 Stoke ....H	**W 1-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Cork*	Schneiderlin	S Davis**	Tadic	**Mane 1**	Pelle	Wanyama*	Gardos**	
Weds 29 Stoke (LC4) ....A	**W 3-2**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Gardos**	Targett	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	S Davis*	Tadic	**Long 1**	**Pelle 2**	Cork*	Alderweireld**	
NOVEMBER															
Sat 1 Hull ....A	**W 1-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	**Wanyama 1**	Schneiderlin	S Davis	Tadic**	Long*	Pelle	Mane*	Cork**	
Sat 8 Leicester ....H	**W 2-0**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin***	S Davis*	Tadic	Mane**	Pelle	Cork*	**Long** 2**	Reed***
Mon 24 Aston Villa ....A	**D 1-1**	Forster	Clyne	Fonte	Alderweireld	Bertrand	Wanyama	Schneiderlin	Long**	Tadic	Mane*	Pelle	Mayuka*	Cork**	
Sun 30 Man City ....H															
DECEMBER															
Weds 3 Arsenal ....A															
Mon 8 Man United ....H															
Sat 13 Burnley ....A															
Tues 16 Sheff Utd (LC5) ....A															
Sat 20 Everton ....H															
Fri 26 Crystal Palace ....A															
Sat 28 Chelsea ....H															
JANUARY															
Thurs 1 Arsenal ....H															
Sun 11 Man United ....A															
Sat 17 Newcastle ....A															
FEBRUARY															
Sun 1 Swansea ....H															
Sat 7 QPR ....A															
Tues 10 West Ham ....H															
Sat 21 Liverpool ....H															
Sat 28 West Brom ....A															
MARCH															
Tue 3 Crystal Palace ....H															
Sat 14 Chelsea ....A															
Sat 21 Burnley ....H															
APRIL															
Sat 4 Everton ....A															
Sat 11 Hull ....H															
Sat 18 Stoke ....A															
Sat 25 Tottenham ....H															
MAY															
Sat 2 Sunderland ....A															
Sat 9 Leicester ....A															
Sat 16 Aston Villa ....H															
Sun 24 Man City ....A															

Martinez: Poch's Spurs can make top four

EVERTON boss Roberto Martinez expects Tottenham to mount a strong Champions League challenge over the remainder of the season.

Both teams, who meet in the Barclays Premier League tomorrow, have had an up-and-down start to the campaign and sit together on 17 points from 12 games.

Everton have recovered from a poor start to go unbeaten in eight games in all competitions while Tottenham also appear to be on the up, winning five of their last six matches.

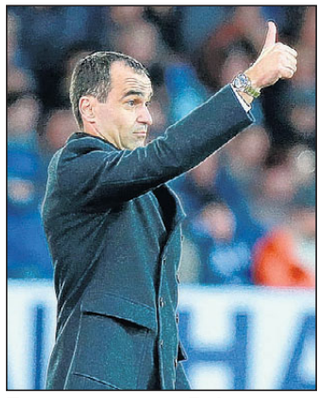
The pair are in the same boat having won Europa League matches on Thursday to book their places in the knockout stages.

Martinez said: "It helps because we're facing really strong opposition but they had an important and intense game as well so we're quite similar in the way we've been able to prepare for the game.

"It's not the same when you're facing an opponent who have had seven days to prepare.

"I really admire this Spurs side. I think they've got a really talented squad.

"They're a team that are fighting to get into the Champions League positions and I do think that they're going to be a really dangerous side as the new manager and players are getting used to the way they want to play.



Everton manager Roberto Martinez

Tottenham Hotspur manager Mauricio Pochettino

"They're going to be a real force in the second half of the season, I'm convinced of that.

"Every aspect of this Spurs side has been tailor-made to get into the Champions League. It's just a matter of time and they will get there consistently."

Mauricio Pochettino took over the Spurs hotseat this summer after winning plenty of admirers during his time at Southampton.

But, while Saints have continued to soar under new manager Ronald Koeman, Pochettino has found the road a little bumpier at White Hart Lane.

Martinez has no doubt the Argentinian will get it right, though, saying: "Mauricio is someone who knows exactly what he wants and he knows exactly how his teams play.

"It always takes time when you go into a new club to get the rhythm of giving consistent results.

"But I know the way he is, and the way that he's adapted to the British game so well – because he's done that incredibly fast with his time at Southampton – he's going to bring a winning formula.

"All I hope is he doesn't bring it too soon. We know it's going to be a terrific game of football, really open, two teams that really want to win and find a way to score goals."

Martinez's first European campaign has been smooth sailing so far, with Everton unbeaten in the Europa League and already guaranteed to win a tough group also featuring Wolfsburg, Lille and Kuban Krasnodar.

They have a final game against Krasnodar to come next month, which will give Martinez a chance to dig deeper into his squad.

The Spaniard said: "We knew when the draw was made this group was going to be really challenging to get through, never mind to be in the position we are, top of the group with one game to spare.

"It's a phenomenal achievement and it's been a really interesting journey. We've had great performances and I think we're ready now for the next level.

"In the final game we're facing Krasnodar, who have no chance to get through. We're in a position where it's a game we can use as an experience for the youngsters.

"It's a unique opportunity. We want to win the game but the objective was to finish top of the group."

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
ARTUR BORUC	0	0	0	0	50	0
CODY CROPPER	0	0	0	0	0	0
KELVIN DAVIS	0	0	0	0	292(1)	0
FRASER FORSTER	12	0	3	0	15	0
PAULO GAZZANIGA	0	0	0	0	18(1)	0
RYAN BERTRAND	12	1	0(1)	0	12(1)	1
MATT TARGETT	0(1)	0	3	0	3(1)	0
JOSE FONTE	12	0	3	0	192(5)	13
FLORIN GARDOS	0(3)	0	2	0	2(3)	0
TOBY ALDERWEIRELD	8	0	0(1)	0	8(1)	0
MAYA YOSHIDA	4	0	1	0	51(1)	2
JACK STEPHENS	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
NATHANIEL CLYNE	12	2	3	1	73(5)	5
JACK CORK	4(6)	2	0(2)	1	126(23)	3
HARRISON REED	0(1)	0	0	0	1(8)	0
MORGAN SCHNEIDERLIN	12	3	2	0	214(31)	13
VICTOR WANYAMA	7(4)	3	3	0	30(8)	3
STEVEN DAVIS	10(1)	0	3	0	70(18)	6
LLOYD ISGROVE	0(1)	0	1	0	2(2)	0
SAM MCQUEEN	0	0	0	0	0(1)	0
GASTON RAMIREZ	0(1)	0	0(1)	0	27(23)	8
DUSAN TADIC	12	1	2(1)	1	14(1)	2
SADIO MANE	5(2)	1	1	0	6(2)	1
JAMES WARD-PROWSE	4(1)	0	1	0	35(31)	1

	LA	LG	CA	CG	CSA	CSG
SAM GALLAGHER	0	0	0	0	3(17)	2
SHANE LONG	6(5)	2	2(1)	0	8(6)	2
EMMANUEL MAYUKA	0(2)	0	0	0	3(12)	1
GRAZIANO PELLE	12	6	3	3	15	9
JAY RODRIGUEZ	0	0	0	0	59(17)	26

KEY: LA: league appearances. LG: league goals. CA: cup appearances. CG: cup goals. CSA: career Saints appearances. CSG: career Saints goals.

Adam Rant

This week's big talking points with **Adam Leitch**

HUGHES'S TRAGIC DEATH COULD CHANGE CRICKET FOR EVER

THE tragic death of Phil Hughes will continue to send aftershocks through the world of cricket for a long time to come. Indeed, it may never quite be the same again.

The Australian batsman, pictured above, was this week killed when hit by a bouncer from Sean Abbott.

Hughes was wearing a helmet but as he swivelled and attempted to play a hook shot, the ball rose and struck him round the back of the head, below where the helmet starts.

Now we can look at this incident and in the cold light of day rightly conclude it was a truly awful moment where chance conspired in a horrible way.

To have that ball, that shot, to get hit exactly there as it rose at that pace, and as you are turning round as well, is something akin to what they call the perfect storm.

You could try to replicate it a million times in tests to improve helmet safety and never achieve it.

That, and the fact Hughes was just 25-years-old, means this is rightly bracketed as a tragedy.

But when for one moment you leave aside the terrible heartache being felt by those who knew and loved Hughes personally, as well as those who witnessed these awful scenes first-hand and the unfortunate Abbott, it is a tragedy for cricket too.

Unlike some other sports, cricket is not a game in which you take to the pitch fearing for your life.

The very worst you think will happen is that you might get hit by a fast ball and it break a bone, give you a cut or some bruising that will be tender for a few days. Any of us who have played the game and have taken guard against somebody you regard as rapid will have experienced this to some degree.

It is a scary business being at the other end to a quick, but it's part of the game.

What's so difficult for cricket, what potentially changes it forever, is the understanding the danger that is attached could be so much more than we had previously comprehended. Because people haven't been dying after being hit, you never really consider it a possibility.

The use of bouncers and the short ball is partly to intimidate, and that has just been accepted as part of the sport. It has been encouraged by teams and spectators alike, and an opponent getting hit, though not hurt, has been something that is cheered.

All that changed this last week though.

Cricket will bounce back, of course it will, but how will every bowler now feel as he runs in, potentially to bowl a short ball?

How will every batsmen feel if he sees one coming his way?

How will the public, so affected by this tragedy as well, react when they see batsmen getting this treatment?

Aggressive cricket is something we have always enjoyed since the famous West Indies side peppered batsmen who weren't even wearing helmets.

It is an integral part of the sport.

But suddenly you question this, you question those in close fielding positions too where you could be directly in the firing line.

It's actually impossible to say how cricket will come to terms with this.

The only hope is that logic prevails, that the fact it was such a complete and utter freak of an accident means people can look past it.

It's hard to imagine though that for a long time to come there will not be subconscious thoughts in the minds of cricketers everywhere, both professional and amateur, when they go out to play about what happened to Hughes. That in itself changes everything.

Saints enjoying the moment

THIS has got to be one of the most exciting weeks for Saints in a while.

That is really saying something considering we have enjoyed so many high points over the last five years.

But with Saints riding high in the table comes a mouth watering set of fixtures that sees them take on Manchester City, Arsenal and Manchester United.

Under normal circumstances such a run of matches would be met by a sense of trepidation and of worry as to where in the table you might suddenly find yourself if things went as would normally be expected.

However, this time the mood is markedly different.

Saints go into these games confident, even buoyant, after a roaring start to the campaign.

They are still the underdogs but they are under no pressure.

Adam Rant keeps on getting asked by those on the outside whether there is a fear as to what might happen to the season if these games go badly.

But that is entirely the wrong way to look at it.

The wider world expects nothing much of Saints really come the end of the season. They believe this is a flash in the pan.

Saints are second now and have set themselves up for a great season come what may.

They are under no pressure whatsoever, other than that which they put on themselves.

They can go out with freedom and express themselves.

If they do that and they hit top form then they will give anybody a game.

The worst that can happen is that they lose all three matches.

Even if that is the case then what are we then talking – having to target the Europa League places maybe rather than the Champions League? Not too shabby to say the least.

Don't be nervous, be excited.

Jury's out on tennis league

THE International Tennis Premier League kicks off for the first time this weekend and it will be interesting to see how it plays out.

It sounds in truth like a bit of a circus, with teams of the leading singles and doubles players in the wordl – along with tennis legens – competing in comparatively quick-fire matches.

The idea seems to be to exploit far flung markets that have traditionally not been exposed to top level tennis in such a way, and of course the players are getting paid very handsomely indeed for their time and efforts.

There are two things to note here though.

One is that tennis is a hugely popular sport, and though you can experiment with some elements of the game you are unlikely to add viewers, rather lose them by tinkering – if you don't like it as it is chances are these new proposals won't do much for you either.

Secondly, do not forget that some of these stars are the ones also complaining about the schedule for the regular season events they participate in.

Hopefully we won't hear so much of that in the future.

Premiership Spotlight

Making a big noise in the Premier League...

OVER the past fortnight, the Press Association has been using the 'Sound Meter' smartphone app to provide a rough guide to which fans in the Premier League are the loudest. Below, in decibels, is a list of the results, with a combined total for each side - having played home and away once - and a list of the loudest grounds.

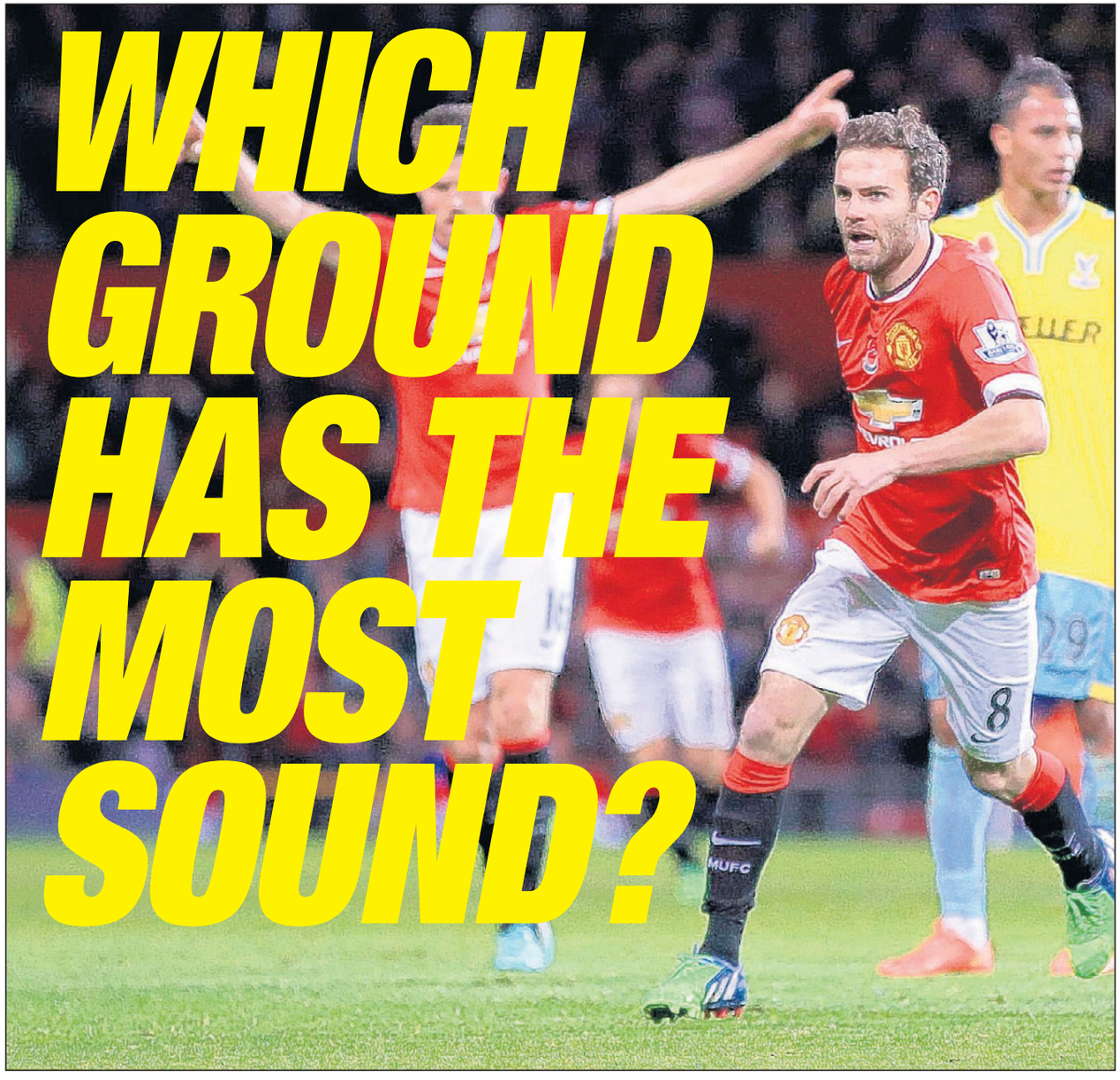
Loudest fans (combined scores from both games tested):

Manchester United - 167 decibels
Stoke - 161
Tottenham - 161
West Brom - 161
Chelsea - 160
Crystal Palace - 160
Arsenal - 159
Newcastle - 158
Burnley - 157
Hull - 157
Manchester City - 157
Swansea - 157
Everton - 156
Leicester - 156
QPR - 156
Sunderland - 156
Southampton - 156
Liverpool - 153
West Ham - 152
Aston Villa - 152

Loudest ground:

Old Trafford - 84 decibels
Britannia Stadium - 83
Emirates Stadium - 83
KC Stadium - 83
Stamford Bridge - 83
Etihad Stadium - 81
St James' Park - 80
Goodison Park - 78
King Power Stadium - 78
St Mary's - 78
Stadium of Light - 78
The Hawthorns - 78
White Hart Lane - 78
Villa Park - 78
Anfield - 77
Liberty Stadium - 76
Loftus Road - 76
Selhurst Park - 76
Turf Moor - 74
Upton Park - 74

WHICH GROUND HAS THE MOST SOUND?



MANCHESTER United's fans can lay claim to being the loudest in the Premier League.

But Jose Mourinho's criticism spurred the Chelsea faithful on to give them a real run for their money this weekend.

Ever since Mourinho lamented the lack of atmosphere at Stamford Bridge after a 2-1 win over QPR three weeks ago, the Press Association has been recording the decibel levels at all the top-flight games.

The news gathering organisation armed their reporters with the smartphone 'Sound Meter' app for all games in the last two rounds of Premier League action, which they used to measure the decibel level from the kick-off to the one-minute mark.

While this experiment can in no way be considered scientific and should be viewed as nothing more than a guide, the conditions it was used in at least gives equality to all 20 clubs in the division.

When it was first used a fortnight ago, United's fans rid themselves of the prawn-sandwich-eating tag they have in some quarters to record a level of 84 decibels against Crystal Palace – a comfortable high for that weekend.

Chelsea's fans went close to matching it against West Brom last Saturday, with those at Stamford Bridge returning a score of 83 decibels and answering Mourinho's call.

The Portuguese was apologetic for his comments afterwards, but they undoubtedly did the trick, with the club's on-field announcer asking for noise and getting it.

"It improved a lot, a lot. You know the answer – there is no comparison," Mourinho said.

"I don't want to speak again about it, for good and for bad, because they pay me to coach.

"They pay me to win matches, they don't pay me to be critical of the crowd so I feel sorry for my comments a couple of weeks ago.

"But the reality is there today, the difference was amazing."

The reading failed to match United's, but was as close as could be and there were three other readings of 83 last weekend.

One came at Arsenal v Manchester United at the Emirates Stadium, with the others recorded at Stoke v Burnley and Hull v Tottenham.

Consequently, Stoke, Tottenham and West Brom fans were second to United in the list of combined scores, with the Red Devils ending up with a total of 167 decibels and that trio some way back on 161.

For balance, United's clash with Palace was played in front of at least an additional 30,000 fans.

Chelsea – whose first reading was 77 decibels, away to Liverpool – were joint third on 160, tied with Palace. Manchester City, United's so-called "noisy neighbours", could only manage a combined score of 157.

At the bottom of the sound table, West Ham achieved the lowest overall score of 152, just behind Liverpool on 153.

CHRIS TODD: A MAN IN DEMAND – SEE THE BIG INTERVIEW ON PAGES 24-27

Premiership Spotlight

Here are the full readings for last weekend, with accompanying comments from the reporters.

HULL V TOTTENHAM (Attendance 23,561)
Decibel level 83: "The meter peaked at 83 moments after kick-of before a delayed throw-in saw it dip to 78. Things levelled out at 80 after that" - Rory Dollard.

CRYSTAL PALACE V LIVERPOOL (Attendance 24,862)
Decibel level 76: "Palace fans were quick to get behind their team but it was the Liverpool fans celebrating the opening goal just after the end of the opening-minute test" - Mark Bryans.

CHELSEA V WEST BROM (Attendance 41,600)
Decibel level 83: "There was a good atmosphere as players made their way out to the pitch before kick-off and despite nothing of note occurring in the opening minute of the match, the meter reached a high of 83dB on several occasions. It did not dip below 75dB" - Simon Peach.

STOKE V BURNLEY (27,018)
Decibel level 83: ''No chances in first minute, but both sets of fans in decent voice'' - Phil Medlicott.

ARSENAL V MANCHESTER UNITED (60,074)
Decibel level 83: "No action on the pitch but both sets of fans were loud, knowing how much the result of this game could turn their respective seasons around" - Jim van Wijk.

MAN CITY V SWANSEA (45,448)
Decibel level 81: "It was an uneventful opening minute with both sides having spells of possession in the Swansea half; visiting goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski had a couple of touches under no pressure" - Andy Hampson.

NEWCASTLE V QPR (51,915)
Decibel level 80: "It was a low-key start to the game with the only excitement a Daryl Janmaat long ball towards Ayoze Perez" - Damian Spellman.

EVERTON V WEST HAM (39,182)
Decibel level 78: "The peak came when Kevin Mirallas looked like he had broken through only to be flagged offside. Most of the singing came from the full section of away fans on opposite side of ground" - Carl Markham.

LEICESTER V SUNDERLAND (31,825)
Decibel level 78: "Backed by two vocal sets of supporters the volume was good at the King Power - despite nothing for the fans to get excited about on the pitch in the first minute" - Nick Mashiter

ASTON VILLA V SOUTHAMPTON
Decibel level 78.
"A poor crowd rarely got going at Villa Park. It peaked at 78 but it was brief with both sets of fans finding enthusiasm hard to come by" - Nick Mashiter.

THEY WERE ROBBED...

Wanyama is latest in long line of the footballing victims of cruel burglaries and brutal robberies

THE raid on Saints midfielder Victor Wanyama's home this week is the latest in a long line of burglaries and robberies suffered by Premier League footballers.

The 23-year-old's Winchester house was burgled while he was away with the team for Monday night's Premier League fixture against Aston Villa.

Police confirmed that electrical items, jewellery and Wanyama's Range Rover Sport were all taken, although the car was later recovered in Buckinghamshire.

However, the Saints star revealed that none of those things proved to be the greatest loss.

"I lost a lot of things, but the most important were the football memories," said Wanyama.

"I lost many souvenir shirts of my Champions League football, and also some of the opponents, like [Andres] Iniesta and [Paul] Pogba.

"If anyone sees them being put out somewhere like eBay then can I ask they get in touch with me at the club?

"I would love to get them back. They bring very important memories for me."

Here, the Sports Pink looks at 11 notable previous incidents suffered by Premier League stars.

May 2005: Chelsea and England midfielder Frank Lampard had two luxury cars stolen along with a number of other items including a television and laptop computers.

As he slept, an Aston Martin DB9 and Mercedes 4x4 were taken from his west London home and 'FFC forever' – a reference to Fulham - was daubed on a wall.

August 2006: Everton winger Andy van der Meyde had his pedigree pet dog stolen.

Thieves took Mac – a seven-month-old Dogue de Bordeaux, the breed made famous by the Tom Hanks film Turner and Hooch.

They also stole his Ferrari and Mini Cooper cars during the break-in, which took place while Van der Meyde was playing in a testimonial match at Goodison Park.

December 2007: Steven Gerrard's wife Alex Curran and their children were at home when masked raiders targeted the family home, as he led Liverpool to a Champions League win against Marseille.

Four thieves wearing balaclavas or hoods escaped with a Rolex watch and two sets of car keys.

May 2007: Liverpool goalkeeper Jose Reina helped his team to a Champions League semi-final triumph over Chelsea by saving two penalties in a shoot-out – then found his home had been ransacked.

He returned from celebrations at 12.45am to discover jewellery, a top-of-the-range entertainment system, personal documents and a grey Porsche Cayenne with Spanish number plates were taken. The Porsche was found burnt out.

July 2008: Emile Heskey was at training with Wigan when his fiancee was threatened at knifepoint at their home.

The raiders took jewellery and a BMW car from the couple's luxury home in Hale, Greater Manchester.

November 2008: Blackburn striker Roque Santa Cruz was on Premier League duty with his club at Portsmouth when raiders targeted his Cheshire home.

In another theft at knifepoint, the Paraguayan's wife was forced to hand over jewellery.

February 2009: Robbers carried out a "terrifying" raid on the home of Manchester United star Darren Fletcher, police said.

Hayley Grice, the footballer's then fiancee, was grabbed by the hair and had a knife held to her throat while being forced to hand over her engagement ring.

Fletcher had travelled with United to a Champions League away game at Inter Milan.

September 2009: Everton defender Phil Jagielka was confronted by knife-wielding burglars in a terrifying raid on his home. The 27-year-old was watching his team on television when three men burst into the mansion in Knutsford, Cheshire. He was threatened with a knife and forced to hand over jewellery and the keys to his Range Rover.

September 2010: Ashley Cole's new bachelor pad was burgled while the footballer was away with the England team.

The 29-year-old had been preparing with the England squad for a match against Switzerland when thieves struck.

November 2013: Garry Monk's home was ransacked while he was undergoing a knee operation.

Ex-Saint Monk, then a Swansea player and now the club's manager, was informed a large number of items were taken.

They included high-value watches and jewellery, laptops and computer equipment, mobile phones and a Swansea kitbag marked with the number 16 and his initials.

May 2014: Wigan player James McArthur spoke of his "devastation" after the FA Cup medal from his side's victory over Manchester City at Wembley in 2013 was taken.

Two wedding rings were also stolen – shortly before the Scotland international was due to get married.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL NEWS - SEE PAGE 28

Saints Spotlight

Big-spending Saints save on agents' fees

SAINTS might have been one of the biggest spenders in the Premier League last summer, but they shelled out one of the lowest amounts on agent fees.

Figures released on Friday show that the club paid £2,766,444 to agents in the period from October 1, 2013, to September 30, 2014.

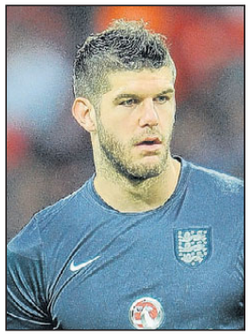
There were 14 clubs in the Premier League who spent more than that.

That is despite Saints having bought around £60m worth of players during the most recent transfer window, with only Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester United having exceeded that in the summer.

In total, Premier League clubs spent £115.2m on agent fees during the most recent reporting period.

Chelsea, at just under £16.8m, paid out the most, while Burnley spent the least, with £711,024.

Chelsea:
£16,771,328
Liverpool:
£14,308,444
Manchester City:
£12,811,946
Tottenham Hotspur:
£10,983,011
Manchester United:
£7,975,556
West Ham United:
£6,380,339
Everton:
£5,753,269
Sunderland:
£5,276,674
Arsenal:
£4,293,407
Stoke City:
£3,986,850
Newcastle United:
£3,876,250
Swansea City:
£3,784,090
West Bromwich Albion:
£3,493,745
QPR:
£3,242,668
Saints:
£2,766,444
Aston Villa:
£2,577,866
Hull City:
£2,459,010
Crystal Palace:
£2,200,797
Leicester City:
£1,608,418
Burnley:
£711,024


FORSTER

CLYNE

FONTE

BERTRAND

WANYAMA

PLAYING HOST TO

Adam Leitch
adam.leitch@dailyecho.co.uk
CHIEF SPORTS REPORTER

ST MARY'S could be about to see a small piece of history made as the visit of Manchester City at the weekend could see 22 international stars start the game.

Saints fielded a full side of 11 international players at Aston Villa on Monday night – the first time in the club's history they were able to do so – with the opposition not able to match that.

At St Mary's on Sunday there is every chance that City will also field a team of 11 capped players, with only midfielder Fernandinho a possible exception.

Saints' likely team boast a combined total of just over 200 caps between them, while the City stars can break 500, and have options of international players galore on the bench as well.

Here we take a quick look at who might play for both sides and their respective international careers.

Saints

Fraser Forster
The Saints stopper recently won his third England cap as he played in the friendly win over Scotland. Trying to force his way past Joe Hart for the number one slot.

Nathaniel Clyne
Picked up his first two England caps in the last set of international fixtures

He starred against Slovenia in the Euro 2016 qualifier and followed that up with an impressive display against Scotland.

Jose Fonte
It's been a long time coming but the centre half made his Portugal debut as a second half sub as they defeated Argentina 1-0 at Old Trafford in the recent friendly.

Toby Alderweireld
A highly experienced international footballer having already amassed 41 caps for Belgium.

Though employed at Saints as a centre half he normally turns out at right back for his country

Ryan Bertrand
Many people are questioning what more Bertrand needs to do to get back in the England squad.

The left back has two caps to his name, both earned as a late sub in matches in 2012.

Morgan Schneiderlin
Quite a dramatic international call-up for Schneiderlin who was first involved for France after being picked in the squad for the World Cup.

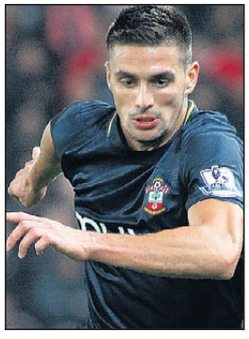
Has gone on to win seven caps, one of which came in the finals.

Victor Wanyama
The earliest starter of the all Saints players as he made his debut for Kenya aged just 15.

He has since amassed 31 caps for his country and is now the team's captain.

Dusan Tadic
Has been a regular for Serbia in recent years, compiling a record of

BELGIAN INTERNATIONAL: Toby Alderweireld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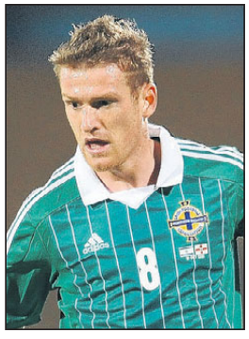
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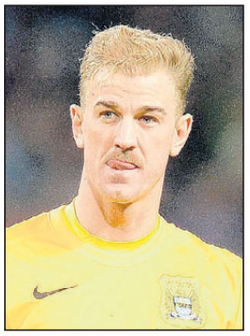
SAINTS V MAN CITY PREVIEW – SEE PAGES 2&3

Saints Spotlight

PELLE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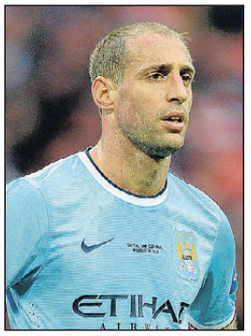

ZABALETA

TOURE

MILNER

A BIT OF HISTORY

29 caps and six goals.

Steven Davis/Shane Long
Northern Ireland skipper Davis is the most experienced of Saints' international stars, with 69 caps to his name.
Long also has a raft of games for the Republic of Ireland under his belt with 50 caps for his nation.

Sadio Mane
Mane has just helped Senegal qualify for the finals of the Africa Cup of Nations and has six goals in 16 appearances for his country.

Graziano Pelle
Marked his recent Italy debut with a goal and now has two caps for his country.

Total caps: 203 with Davis/184 with Long

Manchester City

Joe Hart
Has established himself as the England number one over recent years and has racked up 48 caps already.

Pablo Zabaleta
The Argentina right back is highly rated and has played 46 times for his country, including in the last World Cup.

Vincent Kompany
An international teammate of Toby Alderweireld, Kompany is the leader for both Manchester City and Belgium and has clocked up 60 caps for his country.

Eliaquim Mangala
Was eligible to play for both Belgium and France but chose the latter. Made his debut in 2013 and has won five caps for his country.

Gael Clichy
Another French international in City's back four, Clichy has amassed 20 caps so far.

CAPTION: Kompany and, inset, Nasri

Yaya Toure
The Ivory Coast midfielder has already won 85 caps for his country, scoring 16 goals, and has twice been runner-up in the Africa Cup of Nations.

James Milner
Despite often flying somewhat under the radar, Milner has an enviable 53 caps for England to his name.

Jesus Navas
The winger has picked up 35 caps for Spain which included winning the European Championships in 2012.

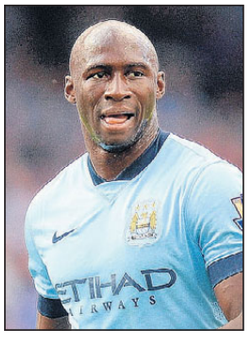
Frank Lampard
Not guaranteed a start for City but did play in the win over Bayern Munich. Lampard, on loan from New York City, won 106 caps for England before announcing his international retirement.

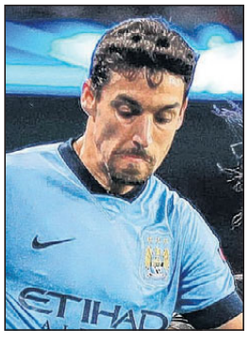
Samir Nasri
After being overlooked for the France World Cup squad Nasri announced his retirement from international football at the age of 27. He has won 41 caps for France scoring five goals.

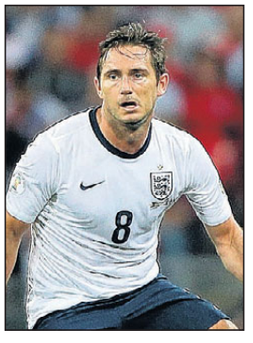
Sergio Aguero
The prolific striker has 59 caps for Argentina and has already scored 22 times for his country.

Total caps: 555

CLICHY


MANGALA


NAVAS


LAMPARD

AGUERO

ALL THE LATEST SCORES - SEE BACK PAGE

Poch: 'I had nothing to do with Mitchell appointment'

PAUL Mitchell was this week appointed as Tottenham's head of recruitment and analysis, but head coach Mauricio Pochettino has indicated he had nothing to do with his departure from former club Southampton.

A week after high-flying Saints opened their £33million training ground, reports emerged that the 33-year-old (pictured) would be following the former Argentina international to White Hart Lane.

Pochettino penned a five-year deal as head coach in the summer and on Wednesday it was confirmed that Mitchell had also made the move to north London.

It is understood that Tottenham paid Southampton compensation for the former Wigan and MK Dons player, who links up again with the coaching staff he worked with at St Mary's.

Pochettino, though, suggests it was others at the club and not him that took the decision to hire Mitchell.

"I never spoke about the new appointment," the Spurs boss said.

"I know Paul from Southampton but only I say all the best and good luck in his job."

Asked if he had any role in the appointment, Pochettino said: "No. The club find him and proposed the job."

Mitchell's arrival at Tottenham will further complicate an already politically charged structure, with director of football Franco Baldini and chairman Daniel Levy both prominent in transfer negotiations.

It also leaves a void at Southampton, yet manager Ronald Koeman is unfazed by the exit of the man that has headed up the club's scouting and recruitment department since January 2012.

"I think it more of a reflection of what he did and what the club is doing over the last few years," Koeman said.

"Okay, we would like to keep everybody in, but it is football, it is life. There are changes, not only with the players but managers, with technical directors, with chairmen - as well in the position of Paul Mitchell.

"Good luck to him, and we have to look for another one to bring in."

Saints Spotlight

Did You Know?

SERGIO AGUERO
8 intertesting facts

SERGIO Aguero commanded the headlines after scoring a stunning hat-trick for Manchester City against Bayern Munich on Tuesday.

Here, the *Sports Pink* shares eight interesting facts about a player, pictured below, rated among the best in the world.

1. Aguero is known widely by his nickname 'Kun', a moniker that has stuck since childhood. It comes from his resemblance to a character in a Japanese cartoon programme that he enjoyed as a boy, which was actually called 'Kum Kum the little caveman'. The cartoon was set in the Stone Age and was about a mischievous little boy.

2. Aguero's mother had a far from straightforward pregnancy with him. When the then teenager Adriana Aguero was six months pregnant, the small house she shared with partner Leonel del Castillo and daughter Jessica in the impoverished Gonzalez Catan district of Buenos Aires was severely flooded. They were forced to evacuate, wading out into metre-deep water. They spent a fortnight sleeping on mattresses at a school before returning home.

3. Aguero's full name is Sergio Leonel Aguero. He was initially given his mother's surname because both she, at 18, and partner Leo, 19, were classed as minors and were not married. This could have been changed to the paternal surname of Del Castillo, as was the intention, years later. However, the family could not produce national identity documents as they had been destroyed in the floods.

4. His parents had also wanted to spell his middle name as 'Lionel', but were forbidden by civil registry restrictions in their part of the country. Lionel was not on approved list of names. This was legislation not enforced in Rosario, where one of Aguero's great contemporaries was born to parents Jorge and Celia Messi.

5. Aguero's father Leo was also a talented goalscorer and showed promise in his youth. Although he never went on to play fully professionally, he was able to supplement his meagre income as a baker by playing for local sides in weekend tournaments.

6. Aguero began his professional football career in July 2003 when, aged just 15 years and 13 days, he made his debut for Independiente. He was the youngest debutant in Argentina's top flight, beating the record of the man who would later become his father-in-law, Diego Maradona. His first senior goal came against Estudiantes in November 2004.

7. Aguero won the Under-20 World Cup with Argentina in Holland in 2005 and enjoyed repeat success in Canada two years later, when he won both the tournament's Golden Boot and Golden Ball awards after scoring six goals in seven games.

8. Aguero became an Atletico Madrid player after moving to Spain in the summer of 2006 and a full international, having been capped by Argentina in a game against Brazil in September 2006. As a teenager in Argentina he attracted the interest of Manchester United, Chelsea, Liverpool, AC Milan, Inter Milan, Juventus and Real Madrid, but Independiente's asking price for the then 17-year-old was off-putting. He moved to Atletico for £19m. He won the Europa League with them in 2010 before joining Manchester City for £38m in 2011.

SAINTS OUT TO SEND CITY

SAINTS welcome defending champions Manchester City to St Mary's this weekend aiming to improve their poor home Premier League record against the club.

Saints have only won two out of ten games at The Dell and St Mary's since the league's rebranding in 1992.

The last of those, though, remains one of the club's greatest league wins of modern times.

In February 2013 Mauricio Pochettino claimed his first win as Saints manager with a stunning 3-1 victory over a City side who, as now, were reigning champions.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks back at City's top flight visits to Southampton.

September 20, 1966
SAINTS 1 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Only 19,900 turned up at The Dell to watch Saints' first ever top flight match.

The ground could certainly hold more – a crowd of 29,479 turned up a few weeks later to watch Saints' game against Chelsea.

Terry Paine fired Saints in front with the club's historic first ever top flight goal, but Mike Summerbee levelled ten minutes into the second half.

August 23, 1967
SAINTS 3 MANCHESTER CITY 2

For the second season running, Saints' first home game was against City.

Goalkeeper Campbell Forsyth, playing his first game for 11 months, conceded a fourth minute opener to Tony Coleman.

Ron Davies and Martin Chivers put Saints in front before Colin Bell levelled seven minutes after half-time.

Davies grabbed a 72nd minute winner.

April 19, 1969
SAINTS 3 MANCHESTER CITY 0

In their last home game of the season, Saints claim a comfortable win against a City side who might have had one eye on their forthcoming FA Cup final.

Bobby Stokes opened the scoring shortly into the second half, before Terry Paine was gifted a goal when the keeper's clearance struck him and rebounded into an empty net.

Micky Judd completed the win as Saints closed in on a seventh placed finish – at the time their highest ever league position.

April 8, 1970
SAINTS 0 MANCHESTER CITY 0

For the second season running, Saints welcomed City for their penultimate game of the term.

August 15, 1970
SAINTS 1 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Ron Davies saves a point for Saints late on with a far post header after Colin Bell had thrust City into a 23rd minute lead on the opening day of the season.

April 4, 1972
SAINTS 2 MANCHESTER CITY 0

Ron Davies grabs a brace as lowly Saints stun a City side who went into the game in third place but just a point off leaders Derby.

And that was how the season finished, with City one of three teams level on 57 points, with Brian Clough's Rams on 58.

LEADING THE WAY: Jason Puncheon, above, puts Saints ahead against Manchester City in February of last year and celebrates, below.

FAMOUS VICTORY: Steven Davis celebrates with Jay Rodriguez after putting Saints 2-0 up against Manchester City in February of last year. Saints went on to win 3-1 – Mauricio Pochettino, inset top right, collecting his first three points as manager.

For their part, Saints finished fourth bottom, after the win against City ended a run of six defeats and a draw in seven games.

March 6, 1973
SAINTS 1 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Brian O'Neil scores just before half-time, but City snatch a point with a last minute leveller from Francis Lee.

February 23, 1974
SAINTS 0 MANCHESTER CITY 2

Goals in each half from Rodney Marsh and Denis Law give City their first ever top flight win at The Dell against a Saints side heading for relegation.

April 28, 1979
SAINTS 1 MANCHESTER CITY 0

Trevor Hebberd scored the only goal from a free-kick which went in off a post.

January 19, 1980
SAINTS 4 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Mike Channon opens the scoring after just nine minutes against the club which he had left to rejoin Saints earlier in the season.

Alan Ball and Dave Watson – the latter also scoring against the club he had left a few months earlier – also netted before Steve Moran completed the rout.

Moran came on as a sub to score with his first touch on his league debut.

August 16, 1980
SAINTS 2 MANCHESTER CITY 0

The game attracts worldwide media attention as it marks Kevin Keegan's competitive debut for Saints.

But it is Mick Channon, scoring twice against his former club in the first 34 minutes, who proves the match-winner.

February 6, 1982
SAINTS 2 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Steve Baker gives Saints a half-time lead.

Bobby McDonald levels in the 73rd minute, but David Armstrong restores Saints' lead 60 seconds later as Lawrie McMenemy's side remain top of the First Division.

March 19, 1983
SAINTS 4 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Steve Moran hits a hat-trick as Saints storm into a 4-0 half-time lead.

Ian Baird adds the second goal in the 20th minute against a City side who are relegated a few weeks later.

September 7, 1985
SAINTS 3 MANCHESTER CITY 0

After winning promotion from the Second Division at the first attempt, City's dismal run at The Dell continues.

Jimmy Case opens the scoring early on before Mick McCarthy puts through his own net.

George Lawrence completes the victory late on.

November 1, 1986
SAINTS 1 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Graham Baker returns to The Dell to grab a late leveller for City.

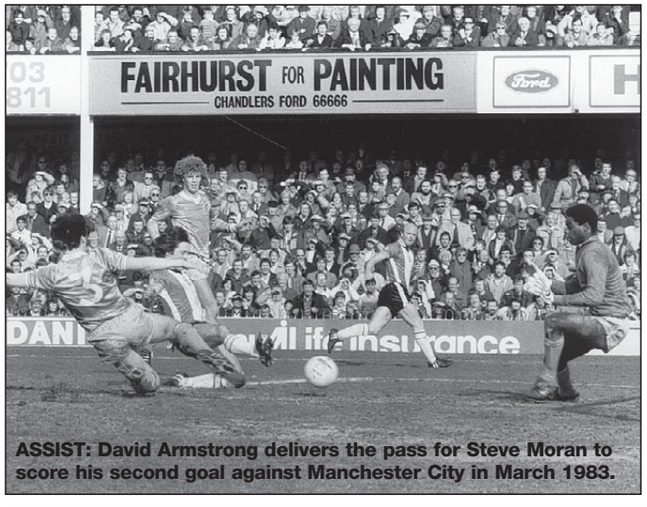
Colin Clarke had opened the scoring,

Saints Spotlight

STOCK INTO NOSEDIVE

ABOVE: Dani Osvaldo goes close against Manchester City in December 2013.

RIGHT: Osvaldo sends Saints fans wild after levelling against City in the same match.



ASSIST: David Armstrong delivers the pass for Steve Moran to score his second goal against Manchester City in March 1983.

May 1, 1993
SAINTS 0 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Derek Allen makes his one and only Saints league appearance as a sub, while Neal Bartlett also makes his debut off the bench.

Keeper Tim Flowers is named as Saints' player of the season prior to kick off, and he later concedes the only goal to David White.

April 4, 1994
SAINTS 0 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Alan Ball's Saints suffer a dismal home loss to their fellow strugglers, Steffen Karl scoring the only goal in the 67th minute.

February 4, 1995
SAINTS 2 MANCHESTER CITY 2

Garry Flitcroft grabbed a second City leveller two minutes from time.

Visiting keeper Tony Coton had put through his own net early on, with Alan Kernaghan equalising.

Saints were back in front on the hour mark through Matt Le Tissier.

January 31, 1996
SAINTS 1 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Uwe Rosler – later to play for Saints – rescues a point for Alan Ball's City with an 85th minute leveller.

Neil Shipperly had put Saints in front in the 66th minute.

The season ended with City going down and Saints just staying up.

October 23, 2000
SAINTS 0 MANCHESTER CITY 2

Paul Dickov and Danny Tiatto score in each half.

October 5, 2002
SAINTS 2 MANCHESTER CITY 0

Brett Ormerod bagged a first half double, opening the scoring in the second minute and adding another two minutes before half-time.

Sub Marian Pahars, on for the injured Ormerod in the second half, is sent off five minutes from time.

November 1, 2003
SAINTS 0 MANCHESTER CITY 2

Veterans Robbie Fowler and Paulo Wanchope give City victory.

Fowler opens the scoring after just four minutes, with Wanchope sealing the success five minutes from time.

October 2, 2004
SAINTS 0 MANCHESTER CITY 0

Only the second goalless stalemate in City's 26 top flight visits to Southampton.

February 9, 2013
SAINTS 3 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Mauricio Pochettino collects a stunning first win in charge of Saints against the reigning Premier League champions.

Jason Puncheon and Steven Davis fire Saints into an early 2-0 lead before Edin Dzeko reduces the arrears.

A Gareth Barry own goal completes one of Saints' most impressive league wins of all time.

December 7, 2013
SAINTS 1 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Dani Osvaldo scores his third – and probably final – Saints goal.

The Italian international conjured up a superb curling leveller after Sergio Aguero had put City into a 10th minute lead.

The point ended Saints' run of three straight league losses.

and Glenn Cockerill's missed penalty on the hour was to prove vital.

December 9, 1989
SAINTS 2 MANCHESTER CITY 1

Sub Barry Horne completes Saints' recovery with an 80th minute winner.

Clive Allen had put City ahead early on, with Rod Wallace only levelling five minutes before Horne's winner.

December 26, 1990
SAINTS 2 MANCHESTER CITY 1

In a similar game to the previous season, Niall Quinn put City ahead only for Saints to hit back to win.

This time Barry Horne struck an equaliser before Matt Le Tissier netted an 81st minute winner.

November 2, 1991
SAINTS 0 MANCHESTER CITY 3

City claim only their second top flight league victory at The Dell with goals from Niall Quinn, Mike Sheron and an own goal from Saints defender Jon Gittens.

Non-league News

Cuss warns Stags over Didcot threat

AFC Totton face a Didcot Town side on Tuesday who brought Wimborne's impressive recent run to a shuddering halt in the Southern League South & West One last weekend.

Magpies boss Steve Cuss had no complaints with the 5-1 scoreline in Oxfordshire that ended a six-game unbeaten and sent a warning to the Stags about the quality of Town.

Wimborne, who beat the Stags 1-0 at the Testwood Stadium earlier this month, are in tenth while Steve Riley's side sit in 12th.

Didcot, on the other hand, are in third.

"It was disappointing for the run to come to such an abrupt end but we could have no complaints with the scoreline," Cuss said. "We came up against a very experienced and good side in Didcot and they were full value for their victory.

"For me, they are one of the best sides we have played this season and I am sure they are going to be right up there. It is a fantastic achievement for a striker (John Mills) to have scored more than 30 goals before the end of November.

"We had been on a terrific run with the six wins in a row and now have to try to bounce back."

Cuss said he had been somewhat aggrieved with a red card issued to Magpies' Jamie Davidson.

The midfielder was dismissed for a second-half challenge on Didcot's Jack Self, a tackle Cuss felt had only warranted a yellow card.

Wimborne headed to Didcot's Loop Meadow on the back of a six-match winning run, only to become the latest victims of Division One South & West's leading marksman John Mills.

Mills took his seasonal haul to 31 goals by plundering a hat-trick, including a penalty, his treble sandwiched between early and late efforts from Pablo Haysham and Matt Clark, respectively.

"The sending off had no impact on the game but I was a little disappointed with it," he said.

"I like to think I always give honest assessments of these situations and I thought it should have been a yellow card. The referee had to make a split-second decision but it had no bearing on the outcome of the game."

● More non-league on pages 18-27.

BOOK of the WEEK

The Road to Nowhere
A Journey Through Boxing's Wastelands
By Tris Dixon

Sportsbookofthemonth.com price: £16.99

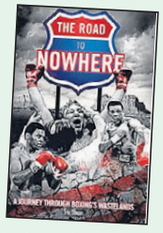
GIVEN the alternatives available nowadays, most readers insist upon a book's opening being immediately captivating. It's a must if authors want people to get past their first, carefully-crafted half dozen introductory pages, otherwise the book is likely to be jettisoned in favour of something else.

Your reviewer was on page 27 of *The Road to Nowhere* before realising that Tris Dixon had successfully captured my attention. This book is that good.

Arriving in New York from England after selling his car, a transaction which just about cleared his overdraft, Dixon sets out, initially as an 'average' boxer (his description) intent on staying Stateside for six months, with plans to learn from the fight game's very best.

In his first few months in the Catskill Mountains in upstate New York, he trains, spars, sleeps rough on several occasions (money – or the lack of it – is a constant theme), finds a dogsbody job at an Italian resort and boxes for Kevin Rooney, Mike Tyson's old trainer.

When the experience fails to produce a satisfactory ending, Dixon moves to Atlantic City. He admits to "really needing a result", whereupon he is offered the opportunity to interview Micky Ward on behalf of *Boxing News*. After making a return Greyhound bus journey to Boston and filing his copy, which clearly pleases the magazine's editor, the wannabe boxer is transformed into a writer and so Dixon new journey begins.



What follows is a boxing odyssey, an often warm, sometimes terrifying, always compelling voyage which takes the author from Rocky Castellani in Atlantic City to Marvin Johnson in Indianapolis, as well as dozens of memorable places – and names – in between. Armed with what he calls a "stalker-like resolve", Dixon successfully tracks down and meets a long list of forgotten boxers, including former world champions.

Some are successful, others washed up. Some have invested wisely, others must continue working for a living.

"That's always been a problem for fighters," writes Dixon, "that when they are so immersed in boxing they never give life after the sport a second thought; not out of carelessness but because they are so fixated on the immediate goal they do not look beyond it for fear of losing focus."

Dixon's obvious love for, and fixation with, the noble art is evident throughout this outstanding work.

QUIZ QUESTION:

We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of The Road to Nowhere to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website (*sportsbookofthemonth.com*) and answer the following question:

What year did Marvin Johnson compete at the Olympic Games?

Saints Spotlight

ON ROAD TO RUIN: SAINTS'

SAINTS bid to dent their desultory league record at Arsenal next Wednesday.

The club remarkably only won once in 35 trips to Highbury, and on their first two visits to The Emirates have conceded eight goals.

Indeed, Saints have lost two of their last four league trips to the Gunners by 6-1 margins.

Here, the Sports Pink Saints' previous top flight trips to Arsenal.

December 26, 1966
ARSENAL 4 SAINTS 1

Saints' defeat on their first ever league trip to Highbury was a taste of things to come.

The Gunners romped to victory following doubles from George Armstrong and John Radford.

Saints replied two minutes from time through Ron Davies – the Welshman's 20th league goal of the season. The very next day, Saints beat Arsenal 2-1 at The Dell in the return game!

April 15, 1968
ARSENAL 0 SAINTS 3

Saints romped to a surprise victory on Easter Monday, drawing level with Arsenal as a result.

Mick Judd opened up the scoring, on his first league start, with a powerful header against an Arsenal side who had only lost twice in the league at home all season.

Joe Kirkup doubled the lead with an ambitious lob before Terry Paine completed the rout with a penalty.

March 29, 1969
ARSENAL 0 SAINTS 0

December 6, 1969
ARSENAL 2 SAINTS 2

Ted Bates' Saints put in a battling performance to make it three games unbeaten at Highbury.

Ron Davies equalised John Samuels' opener on the half hour mark and man of the match Jimmy Gabriel followed up on a loose header ten minutes from time after John Radford had restored the hosts' lead.

December 26, 1970
ARSENAL 0 SAINTS 0

Ted Bates masterminded another goalless stalemate against an Arsenal side which finished the season by claiming the double of league title and FA Cup.

March 28 1972
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 0

Paul Gilchrist made his first league start for Saints in a game decided by Peter Marinello's goal on the stroke of half-time.

September 30, 1972
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 0

George Graham, later to manage Arsenal to the league title, scored the only goal in the second half.

March 2, 1974
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 0

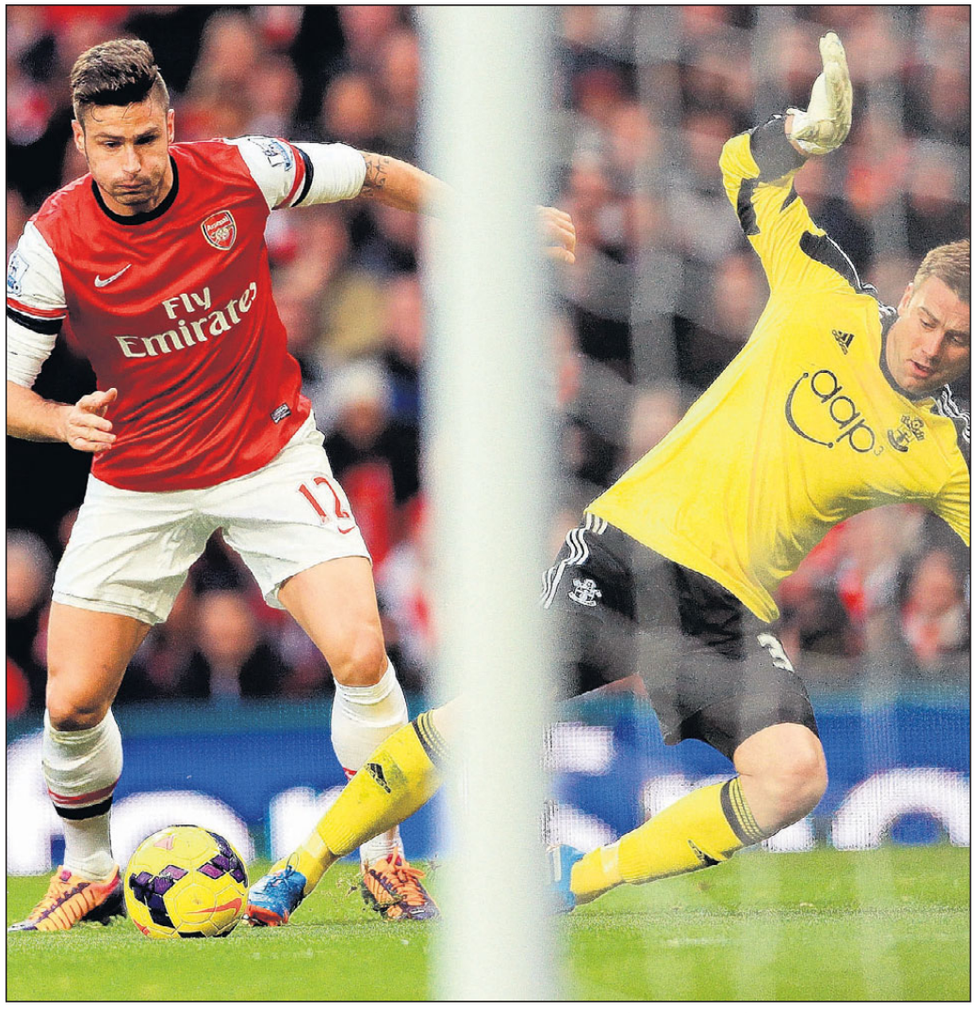
Nick Holmes' Saints debut ends with another single-goal loss.

The man on target would later become a firm favourite at The Dell – Alan Ball.

October 21, 1978
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 0

Saints' return to Highbury after a four and a half year absence ends the same way as their previous three visits had.

This time Arsenal had to wait until the 89th minute before netting the winner through Liam Brady.



CLANGER: Arsenal's Olivier Giroud capitalises on a blunder from Artur Boruc last season.

April 5, 1980
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 1

Phil Boyer volleyed a second half leveller after Alan Sunderland had put the hosts ahead.

August 19, 1980
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 1

Graham Baker fired a spectacular equaliser from 30 yards to earn Saints a point in Kevin Keegan's second league game for the club.

May 15, 1982
ARSENAL 4 SAINTS 1

Saints fall 3-0 down in the first half in their last game of the 1981/82 season. On target are Paul Davis, Stuart Robson and John Hawley, with Davis adding a second after the break. David Armstrong replied.

April 2, 1983
ARSENAL 0 SAINTS 0

December 31, 1983
ARSENAL 2 SAINTS 2

Saints find themselves 2-0 down to goals from David Cork and Peter Nicholas (penalty).

Steve Moran gives Saints a lifeline just after the hour mark, before the same player nets a 75th minute leveller.

May 6, 1985
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 0

Graham Rix, currently manager of Wessex League club AFC Portchester, netted the only goal in the first half.

August 20, 1985
ARSENAL 3 SAINTS 2

David Armstrong's two goals are both in vain as Saints lost their first away game of the season.

Tommy Caton and Stuart Robson put the Gunners in control before Armstrong's first goal.

Tony Woodcock restored Arsenal's two-goal lead.

December 27, 1986
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 0

Niall Quinn gave George Graham's men victory with a goal 19 minutes from time.

November 21, 1987
ARSENAL 0 SAINTS 1

Danny Wallace's goal 12 minutes from time gave Saints their first win at Highbury for almost 20 years.

Arsenal went into the game top of the First Division, having won 11 of their 15 games, while Saints were mid-table.

September 17, 1988
ARSENAL 2 SAINTS 2

Saints were cruelly denied a fourth straight win at the start of the 1988/89 season by two late Arsenal goals.

Matt Le Tissier and Rod Wallace had put Saints in control, before Brian Marwood converted an 82nd minute penalty.

Alan Smith then fired an injury time leveller, in time added on for the broken jaw Saints' Glenn Cockerill suffered when he was struck by Paul Davis.

Davis, proved guilty by television evidence, received a nine match ban.

Arsenal ended up winning the title on

LIVE SAINTS MATCH UPDATES AT dailyecho.co.uk

Saints Spotlight

HORROR RUN AT ARSENAL

NO SENTIMENT IN FOOTBALL: Theo Walcott scores against his former club in 2012's 6-1 rout

goal difference, this point against Saints being crucial.

May 2, 1990
ARSENAL 2 SAINTS 1

Saints suffered more late agony at Highbury after taking the lead through Barry Horne.

Lee Dixon levelled with a 76th minute spot-kick before David Rocastle plundered a winner four minutes later.

November 17, 1990
ARSENAL 4 SAINTS 0

Saints are three down inside 37 minutes to goals from Paul Merson, Anders Limpar and Alan Smith.

Smith completes the scoring in the second half.

May 2, 1992
ARSENAL 5 SAINTS 1

Saints concede four goals in the last 20 minutes in the final game of the season.

Ian Wright bags a hat-trick late on with Alan Smith also scoring.

Kevin Campbell had put Arsenal ahead before Glenn Cockerill levelled.

March 20, 1993
ARSENAL 4 SAINTS 3

Jimmy Carter grabbed a 78th minute winner as Saints conceded their 13th goal on their last three visits to Highbury.

Saints were ahead through Iain Dowie on four minutes, but trailed 3-1 after 29 with Andy Linighan, Paul Merson and Carter scoring in a 14- minute blitz.

Micky Adams hauled Saints back into contention before Matt Le Tissier levelled.

Carter had the final say as Saints were beaten just a week after they had won 4-3 against Ipswich.

September 25, 1993
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 0

Paul Merson settled matters before half-time.

January 24, 1995
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 1

Jim Magilton lobbed a cheeky leveller over David Seaman with 16 minutes left to give Saints a point, John Hartson having opened the scoring.

September 2, 1995
ARSENAL 4 SAINTS 2

Saints were 2-0 down inside 23 minutes, Dennis Bergkamp and Tony Adams on target.

The visitors were level at half-time, though, thanks to Gordon Watson and Ken Monkou.

Bergkamp put the Gunners back in front on 68 minutes before Ian Wright added a fourth.

December 4, 1996
ARSENAL 3 SAINTS 1

Paul Merson and Ian Wright (penalty) put Arsenal in command.

Though Eyal Berkovic reduced the arrears, Paul Shaw had the final say in the last minute.

January 31, 1998
ARSENAL 3 SAINTS 0

Arsenal plundered three second half goals in the space of seven minutes through Dennis Bergkamp, Tony Adams and Nicolas Anelka.

October 17, 1998
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 1

David Howells cancelled out Nicolas Anelka's goal.

February 26, 2000
ARSENAL 3 SAINTS 1

Freddie Ljungberg and Dennis Bergkamp put the hosts in command at half-time.

Dean Richards brought Saints back into the game, but Ljungberg added his second.

December 2, 2000
ARSENAL 1 SAINTS 0

An 85th minute Patrick Vieira goal sends Saints back home pointless.

FEBRUARY 2, 2002
Arsenal 1 Saints 1

Jo Tessem grabbed an 80th minute leveller for Gordon Strachan's side, after Sylvain Wiltord had fired Arsenal into the lead.

May 7, 2003
ARSENAL 6 SAINTS 1

Saints were incredibly 5-0 down after just 26 minutes - paying the price for fielding a weakened side ahead of their FA Cup final against the Gunners.

Jermaine Pennant (3) and Robert Pires (2) were on target before Jo Tessem replied.

Pires completed his own triple in the second half as Saints slumped to their heaviest ever loss at Highbury.

February 10, 2004
ARSENAL 2 SAINTS 0

Thierry Henry scored his 100th Premier League goal in the process of netting a brace in what turned out to be Gordon Strachan's last game in charge of Saints.

October 30, 2004
ARSENAL 2 SAINTS 2

Rory Delap put Saints in with a chance of a famous victory by scoring twice late on.

Delap netted in the 80th and 85th minutes after Thierry Henry had put Arsenal ahead.

But sub Robin van Persie dashed Steve Wigley's hopes of a stunning victory by equalising in the last minute.

September 15, 2012
ARSENAL 6 SAINTS 1

Saints crashed to a six-goal thrashing for the second time in four league visits to Arsenal.

Their first ever trip to the Emirates saw them 4-0 down early on before Danny Fox reduced the arrears.

Saints didn't help themselves with defenders Jos Hooiveld and Nathaniel Clyne both putting through their own goal.

Gervinho netted twice and Lucas Podolski and ex- Saint Theo Walcott were also on target.

The defeat took Saints' goals against column to 14 after just four games.

November 23, 2013
ARSENAL 2 SAINTS 0

A nightmare mistake by Saints keeper Artur Boruc put Arsenal on the road to victory.

Olivier Giroud opened the scoring in the 22nd minute after robbing Boruc of possession as the Pole tried to dribble the ball out of his way.

Giroud sealed victory with an 86th minute penalty.

READ LAWRIE MCMENEMY'S COLUMN EVERY SATURDAY IN THE ECHO

Non-league News

Blame me for Vase loss – Bowers

FOLLAND Sports manager Danny Bowers admits his team were devastated by their FA Vase second round 3-2 extra time defeat to Cornish side St Austell at Follands Park last Saturday.

A Matt Burt header and a well taken Ashley Jarvis effort saw the Planemakers go into the break 2-1 up.

An injury to new strike signing Nathan Lynch, signed from Sholing recently, meant Bowers was forced into personnel changes, which altered their gameplan.

That, in the eyes of the boss, pictured below, ultimately cost them dear as the visitors surged back into it in the second period, despite being down to ten men after Jordan Dingle brought down Jarvis in the first half.

Liam Eddy opened the scoring and then struck in extra time to send the Lillywhites through after Neil Slateford had levelled with five minutes left in normal time.

Bowers blamed himself for the defeat.

"I've had lots of messages from the players saying they're devastated," he said. "But the buck stops with me and I have to take the blame.

"The beauty of hindsight means I can see what I've done wrong, but it was the changes I made that cost us.

"The Nathan Lynch change was forced upon us. That changed the game as we weren't able to retain possession so effectively.

"All three of their goals were preventable – they all happened because of defensive mistakes.

"I could have done things differently – it is a defeat that is hard to take.

"We missed so many great opportunities to win it in extra time – it was frustrating, but we learn from it and move on."

Bowers is aware that there's little point on dwelling on what could have been.

Instead the gaffer is focusing his attentions on the Sydenhams Premier Division campaign.

"The league more massive than ever for us," he said. "We want to be in the mix for the title chasing teams.

"We're quite a way behind other teams – as we've got several games in hand – and I hope we can now push on up."

As it stood prior to today's fixtures the Planemakers have played just 14 league games since the season began in early August. They have six games in hand against some clubs in the division and are 12 points off top-spot with four games in hand.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Solent snap up LJSP

FORMER Bashley player Leighton-James Speechley-Price has signed for Sydenhams One side Team Solent.

Speechley-Price, an experienced non-league journeyman, will link-up with the youthful university outfit for the remainder of the season.

He arrives at Test Park with a wealth of appearances behind him after spells at Lymington Town, Andover Town, Blackfield & Langley, Cowes Sports, Fawley, Ringwood Town, Whitchurch and, most recently, Verwood Town.

Davis leaves the Dean

GEORGE Davis has switched from Horndean to fellow Sydenhams Premier Division side Fareham Town.

Davis had spent just over a season at Fiveheads Park and prior to that spent several seasons with Moneyfields.

Meanwhile, Ashley Tattersall has re-joined Fareham after leaving them in the summer to move to Moneyfields.

Town lure Boro ace

PETERSFIELD Town have snapped-up Dan Woodward on a dual-signed arrangement from Conference South side Gosport Borough.

The Sydenhams Premier Division high fliers lured the versatile Woodward, who was a regular for Alex Pike's team last term and made an appearance at Wembley in the FA Trophy final, to Love Lane with the offer of regular football.

He played more than 30 times for Boro last term but has found first-team opportunities limited after a series of big signings arrived at Privett Park over the summer.

Boud's Sports-bound

FOLLAND Sports have captured the signing of Wayne Boud from Fareham Town.

The winger had been at the Creeksiders for four seasons after stints with Blackfield & Langley and Moneyfields.

John Stimpson funeral

THE funeral details for John Stimpson, a pillar of the non-league community who passed away last week, have been announced.

A service will take place on Wednesday, December 3, at Catherington Church, Horndean.

It will be followed by a wake at Petersfield Town's Love Lane ground at 1pm.

The address for the service is: 330 Catherington Lane, Horndean PO8 0TD.

The wake is at Petersfield Town Football Club, Love Lane, Petersfield, GU31 4BW.

KILLICK: TIME TO STEP UP

POOLE Town boss Tom Killick is adamant his side are the best team in the Southern League – and wants his players to prove it during a hectic pre-Christmas schedule.

Dolphins, four points clear at the Premier Division summit, face a run of no fewer than nine games in 21 days.

The sequence will see them in action every Saturday and Tuesday for the next month and includes four away league games on the trot.

Poole, who have played 10 home league games compared with only six away, complete the punishing programme with a trip to second-placed Corby on December 20.

"Up to now, it has been levelled at us that our position is slightly false because we haven't played that many away games so we have to make sure we show the right mentality and send out a message that we are there on merit," Killick, pictured, said.

"I don't think we are in a false position but I understand people making the comment.

"I think we are the best team in the league but we have to make sure we prove that over the coming weeks.

"It is a significant period and there is no point pretending otherwise.

"People would have been looking at our fixtures, waiting for this period and seeing it as a true test for us.

"I see it that way as well and it is going to be a really close examination of our credentials, but I am confident we can come through.

"You aren't going to win every game in a sequence like this and four points would be a good return from our next two games whichever way round they came.

"We wouldn't be happy with anything less and, if we were to win both, it would be a psychological boost and all the other teams would be a little concerned."

Your name's not down, you're not coming in...

A SQUABBLE between Poole Town and Weymouth erupted this week as the Dolphins were demanded to pay for their staff and players to enter the Terras' Bob Lucas Stadium for a Southern Premier Division clash.

Weymouth announced table-toppers Poole would have to cough up for extra members of the club to enter the ground, with a maximum of 24 personnel allowed to enter the ground free of charge.

Dolphins boss Tom Killick planned to take 21-man first-team and a nine-strong backroom staff, meaning the club would have to shell-out £66 on tickets.

A war of words ensued before the weather intervened and postponed the game before any more moaning occurred.

Killick has slammed the move and says he is "amazed clubs can stipulate how many players you can take to a game", while Weymouth have pinned the blame on the Poole boss.

Terras chairman Chris Pugsley claims they have taken the action after Killick took three under-18 players and "snuck in" adults through the players' entrance when the teams met on Boxing Day.

"I've got nine staff and a squad of 21 who are expected to turn up on matchdays," said Killick prior to the match. "Unfortunately, some of them may have to stay at home because Weymouth can't afford to let them in.

"According to the league, the home club has discretion as to how many tickets it gives so I am thinking the next time we have a tough game, we might only allow six or seven players in if this is the way forward.

"I am amazed that clubs are allowed to stipulate how many players and staff you can bring to a game but that is what Weymouth are saying. We don't count people in and don't have any issues with it at our home games. I am irritated by it."

Weymouth chairman Pugsley said: "The normal policy from Weymouth's point of view is to allow 24, which is what the league guidelines are. But to be quite frank, under normal circumstances, if anybody asked for a few more, it wouldn't be a problem.

"Tommy Killick attended the football club last season and he took in three under-18 players saying they were kit men. He snuck in adults through the players' entrance and, basically, it was a little bit out of order to say the least, so we have to go with the guidelines on this one."

Killick strenuously refuted Weymouth's claims regarding that fixture, saying he had taken his nephew into the ground who had helped with the kit.

Non-league Football

New Bash boss sets out survival aim

NEW manager Dominic Cunliffe insists Bashley can belie their amateur status and secure Southern League survival – provided the players embrace a "different culture".

Cunliffe, a senior lecturer in sports coaching at Southampton Solent University and former head coach of their varsity side Team Solent in Wessex One, was this week handed the reins at Bashley Road.

The cash-strapped New Forest outfit have struggled to compete without a playing budget as the club's new committee, elected over the summer, battled to secure its long-term future.

Chairwoman Angela Speechley-Price revealed this week that Bash had secured adequate finance to keep the club going for the next three years, but that no funds would be available for the incoming boss for the foreseeable future.

Speechley-Price, however, has tasked the new man with avoiding relegation, a target Cunliffe welcomed.

Asked whether Bash, currently seven points from safety in Southern One South & West, can stay up, Cunliffe said: "I would not do it otherwise.

"If I find I am not the man to take it forward then I will be brutally honest and say that to Angela.

"It is a big commitment for everybody and there is a lot of expectation on my shoulders but I know we can survive. We are not that far away and I do envisage us being in the Southern League next season.

"You never wish ill on other teams but there are some clubs – bigger clubs than ours – who are struggling so it will be interesting to see what happens.

"It will be a challenge but if we can get a bit of confidence going and a run together we can soon move up the table.

"We have players with ability, they just need to be harnessed and supported. We will be instilling a different culture within the club throughout the different teams and the lads seem willing to change and adapt to a new philosophy."

Cunliffe, a Devonian who played for Taunton Town, Tiverton Town and Bideford continued: "I was very encouraged by the commitment of the players and their willingness to learn during my first training session.

"In terms of recruiting players I think it is only fair to give the existing squad their chance to cement a place. We had a very good, open discussion about what I expect from the team and what I will be demanding of them.

"It was received very well and I got the impression they were looking forward to the transition. It is about making the small changes but we are under no illusions."

Ex-Pompey ace in bid to rescue Salisbury

THERE seems to be a glimmer of hope at the end of Salisbury City's crisis, with a number of investors interested in saving the stricken club.

Former Portsmouth star Steve Claridge, who also counts Bournemouth and Aldershot among the 20 plus clubs he has turned out for in a long and varied playing career, is among a group of four who have launched a bid to take ownership of the Wiltshire club.

The TV pundit on the BBC's *Football League Show* has joined forces with David Phillips, Jeremy Hardwood and Graham Mundy – all of whom are businessman and keen supporters of the Whites.

The Ray Mac outfit current owes creditors more than £640,000.

It is hoped the consortium – guided by former Weymouth chairman and sports writer Ian Ridley – will be able to rid Salisbury of its debts and bring football back to the Ray Mac.

It is not since August that a ball was kicked at the Whites' home ground, and that was in pre-season friendly against Shrewton United.

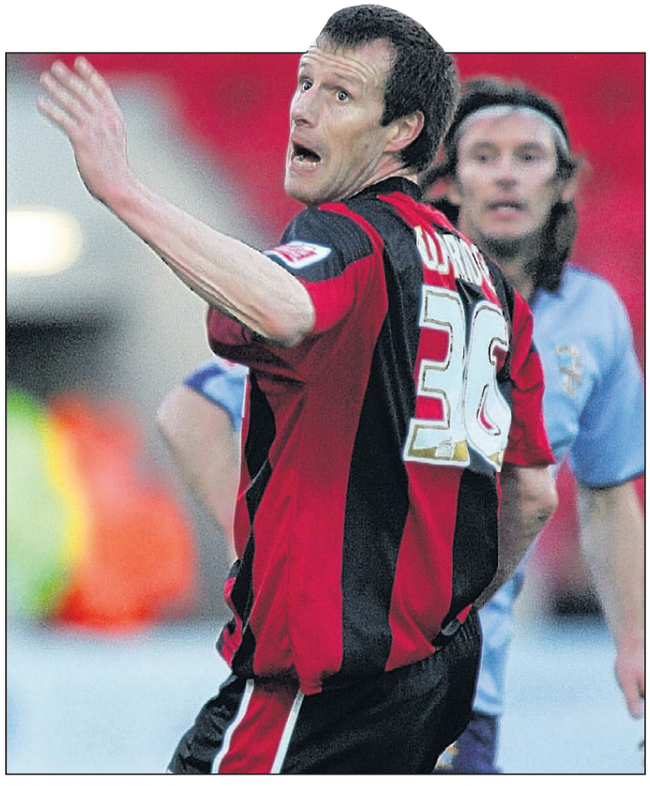
Since then a Moroccan businessman Otail Touzar bought the club for a pound in May but never invested a penny.

As Touzar's intentions became clear the inevitable happened and the club were expelled from the Football Conference. An appeal was lodged but rejected.

But that dark period seems to be nearing a positive conclusion.

Claridge, who scored 255 goals in a career that spanned almost three decades, was set to succeed Mikey Harris as manager in the summer.

After that failed to transpire, he's returned in another capacity.



OWNERSHIP BID: Steve Claridge, pictured playing for Bournemouth in 2006, is fronting a consortium hoping to rescue Salisbury City.

"I hope the administrator will see that our offer is a fair one and that we are the most credible and best-qualified people to get this club up and running again," he said. "There does need to be a swift resolution to this.

"It may seem like a long time until next season but any new club has to apply to the Football Association for allocation of a league in December and we are keen to make preparations."

The 48-year-old has three managerial spells on his CV from his time at Pompey, non-league Weymouth and Millwall. The quartet's offer to buy the club is being reviewed by administrators Portland Business Support and Advice, with Mike Fortune and Carl Faulds at the forefront.

One of the consortium members, Phillips, an active sponsor who was on the previous consortium with Mundy, Harwood, Mark Winter and Jackie Goddard that broke up, has been supporting the Whites for the past seven years.

The retired 64-year-old from Hale says all they can do is wait until a verdict is reached.

"We have made a fair and reasonable offer to the administrator, Mike Fortune," Phillips said.

"Now we are just waiting for his reply so that we can all progress things.

"We believe we are the right people to take the club on.

"We have a blend of local people and outside experience and we have the city and its footballing interests firmly and foremost at heart."

Fellow board member Harwood entered the Whites into administration in September through his company LED Synergy.

He said: "We have a relationship with the trustees of the Ray Mac and have the finance and expertise in the group to make a go of it and give supporters what is needed – a good, competitive team back on the field and a club that can live within its means.

"I would welcome the opportunity to be involved in making the club secure and stable for many years to come."

In addition, Salisbury hero and Saints legend Nick Holmes has volunteered his services to act as an ambassador for the club.

There are also reports of another interested party.

Non-league News

Eastleigh's free tickets

EASTLEIGH have announced that their Vanarama Conference home game against Dartford next Tuesday is free for both home and away fans.

It is the second time the Spitfires have offered fans the chance to watch Conference Premier football without cost after they did the same for their league match against Forest Green Rovers in September.

A club statement read: "The club has been delighted with attendances both home and away this season and would like to thank the fans for their continued support.

"The match will kick off at 7:45pm with tickets available on the turnstiles at a first come first served basis."

Meanwhile, there are still spaces for travel up to the FA Cup second round match against Southport on Saturday, December 6.

New date for Town trip

EASTLEIGH'S away trip to Alfreton Town has been rearranged.

It was originally meant to be played on Tuesday, December 9, but has been delayed 24 hours to the Wednesday.

The Spitfires had requested the delay after learning their FA Cup second round match at Southport would be played on the Sunday.

Adie's four new faces

CHRISTCHURCH manager Adie Arnold bolstered his numbers this week with no fewer than four signings.

The Hurn Bridge outfit are currently struggling in the Sydenhams Premier Division and Arnold has decided to transform his side's fortunes by delving into the transfer market.

Luke Davis, Sebastian Guerrero, Kingsley Nakpodia and Ryan Stamp are the four tasked with turning Christchurch's fortunes around.

Davis leaves the Dea

TADLEY Calleva got back to winning ways with a 2-1 victory away at Laverstock and Ford last Saturday in Sydenhams One.

Brett Denham and Ashley Ledger got the goals as Tadley bounced back after losing to Cowes Sports the week before.

It was their eighth win in ten league games so far this season for the table toppers.

Team Solent are in close pursuit and so are Amesbury Town – with both sides just a point behind Tadley heading into today's fixtures.

This Wednesday Tadley travel to Southern League outfit Sholing in the third round of the Hampshire Senior Cup, having knocked Basingstoke Town out in round two.

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Non-league Football

Non-league News

Whitchurch wobble

WHITCHURCH United's spell at the summit of the Sydenhams Premier Division ended last Saturday when they drew 1-1 to Lymington Town.

The Jam Boys sat third this week and are without a win in four games now.

They followed up the Linnets defeat with an extra time Sydenham League Cup loss to Blackfield & Langley.

Against the Linnets after a goal-less first half, it was visiting Whitchurch who took the lead, Josh Green, on his last appearance for the Jam Boys before moving to Winchester, converting from the penalty spot after Josh Harfield, pictured, had been brought down.

However, Lymington managed to equalise through James Davis.

Neither side was able to find a winner despite the home side ending the game with ten men after having a player sent off.

Dan raids Alresford

FORMER Winchester City manager Danny Robinson has signed one of former charges to bolster his numbers at new club Newbury Town.

Alresford Town's Cell Cook has moved to the Hellenic Premier Division side as part of rebuild by former Denplan City Ground co-boss Robinson, pictured.

He's also brought in a defender Pa Touray from Highmoor Ibis and is hoping is sign young forward Shane Lock from Andover New Street.

"Once those three are done, I think we're done and dusted," he said.

He's aware that the squad could take time to really take shape.

"It will take time for them all to gel," he added. "But we have two cup games this week and that will give us time to settle in before we play our next league game."

Port snap up Harrop

AFC Portchester has signed Tony Harrop from Petersfield Town.

Harrop spent three seasons with Totton & Eling before he moved to the Rams.

He has also played for Hayling United and Fareham Town.

Eastleigh ready

EASTLEIGH will hit another historical landmark next weekend when they play Vanarama Conference rivals Southport in the FA Cup second round.

It is the first time in the club's existence that they will play at that stage of the oldest club knockout competition.

To put it in a little more perspective, Richard Hill's side are just one step away from a possible tie with Premier League opposition.

That's if they can beat the Merseyside outfit on Sunday, December 6 (2pm), of course.

The Spitfires are no strangers to writing new chapters in their history in recent times.

Of late they seem to break new ground almost every week.

Here, the *Sports Pink* looks at the Spitfires' FA Cup journey so far.

● Their first outing in the competition this season saw Eastleigh play Kidderminster Harriers.

The fourth qualifying round tie was hotly anticipated by the Spitfires' faithful and they weren't let down, as a Jai Reason wonder-strike in the 15th minute was enough to send Hill's side through to the first round.

The odds didn't look in the Spitfires' favour as they headed to Aggborough at the end of October however. After all they had just one win away from home all season and that was against Conference strugglers Nuneaton Town.

Reason, who has been in superb form this season, notched a glorious effort from 25-yards but, it was Ross Flitney's goalkeeping heroics that kept the Silverlake Stadium side in the tie and, ultimately, sent them through.

After the game, the popular midfielder, Reason, said: "I'd like Southend away – it's on my doorstep!

"But the main thing is we're in the hat.

"I've never played in the first round before, I wasn't involved against York in my last season at Cambridge United five years ago, so it's good to help put the club on the map that bit more.

"We haven't been too good away from home, so it was vital we put in a performance and the lads were brilliant for the 90 minutes."

Hill picked up on his keeper's outstanding display.

"The goalkeeper was unbelievable, he's the best in non-league without a shadow of a doubt," Hill said.

"He's made two saves worthy of a higher league, he's won us that game.

"But I don't want to single anyone out. It was a great team performance of the sort that's been missing in the league.

"We can take a lot from this, we were horrible to play against, it

Romsey boss refuses to throw in the towel

ROMSEY Town head coach James Phillips is remaining positive despite his side's torrid run of form in Sydenhams Division One.

The Bypass Ground side have not won in the league since the end of August, their most recent defeat a 4-2 reverse to New Milton Town last weekend.

That takes their tally to one win and eight defeats in the league so far this term.

The drab run of results isn't getting young head coach Phillips down, however.

"My initial reaction was one of disappointment mixed with a great deal of encouragement," he said.

"I genuinely feel we could of taken something from the game and, but for a slack 15 minutes, we were very much in the game.

"Once again it shows how small the margins can be in this league and how one individual error will be punished by the top teams.

"But let's not look past the massive improvement on last weekend's performance and it gives me a lot of confidence going into the next couple of games."

After going a goal down early on through New Milton's Kabba Jack, Romsey hit back with a goal from Ryan Merrick.

"I was extremely pleased by the lads' response after conceding," said Phillips. "I actually felt before that goal we had a couple of half chances which, on another day, could have ended up in the back of the net – but it wasn't to be.

"One thing I have to praise my players for is the courage and desire they show, no matter what situation they face.

New Milton struck to take the lead, through a penalty converted by Jack.

Jack Dickson then scored before Jack completed his hat-trick to make it 4-1.

Kadeem Price then pulled a goal back for the hosts but that was as good as it got for Romsey.

JAMES PHILLIPS

MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS IN MONDAY'S ECHO

Non-league Football

to make history

ON THE BALL: Jai Reason in action for Eastleigh in this side's FA Cup first round win over Lincoln City at the Silverlake Stadium.

was total resilience. Kidderminster put us under a lot of pressure in the last half hour but the two centre halves were awesome."

Prior to the match Hill said that he wouldn't be a good luck charm in the knockout competition.

"I don't have much luck in the FA Cup, so if they're relying on me for that, it ain't going to happen," he said. "But if we play well, compete, get a bit of luck and the wind's blowing in the right direction, who knows we might just surprise a few people."

But Hill's FA Cup luck seems to be changing.

● Eastleigh were drawn against Lincoln City for a historic first round tie – the second time they'd ever reached that stage of the competition. The last time they achieved that feat was in 2009/10 when they played Barrow – during Ian Baird's spell in charge.

But this was Hill's era and he was keen to label the Lincoln clash as the biggest in his time at the club.

"Whatever anyone else says, this for me is the biggest game, certainly in my time at the club, and possibly in Eastleigh's history," said Hill.

"We're playing a recognised club who you could be forgiven for thinking are still in the Football League."

The match against the Imps at the Silverlake Stadium was certainly full of drama.

Eastleigh controlled the first half and took the lead through Craig McAllister's strike within the first ten minutes.

After the break Lincoln were far more dominant on a rain-soaked Stoneham Lane pitch. Several efforts went wide until substitute Delano Sam-Yorke converted with 18 minutes left to play to set up a tense finale.

Eastleigh have made a habit of scoring late goals this season and this epic tie saw them pull out yet another last gasp victory as Ben Strevens netted a winner after Ben Wright cut-back to the experienced midfielder.

"The support, and the roar at the end when Strevs scored, shows their enthusiasm for this club," said Hill about the Spitfires faithful. "You could see how much this meant.

"Our supporters have been fantastic. They're part of something special.

"They should saviour these times.

"We're in the next round of the FA Cup for goodness sake; this is another step in the right direction for this football club.

"We're into the second round – another first for this football club.

"And that is more important than anything."

Now Eastleigh will look to make more history when they face Southport.

Arnold: Christchurch are deep in the mire

CHRISTCHURCH Town manager Adie Arnold admits his side are prime relegation fodder in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

Arnold's side most recently succumbed to a 4-0 defeat at Andover Town last weekend.

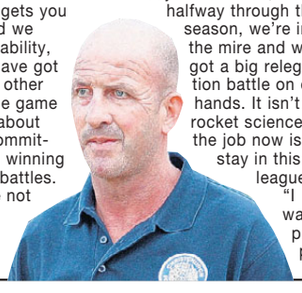
Following that he warned his side that their precarious position needs to change if they are to survive.

Priory were 3-0 down at half-time at the Portway Stadium and a further goal in the second period deepened their misery.

Christchurch are without a league win in nine outings and this latest defeat meant they missed the chance to climb out of the bottom two.

"It's time for people to stand up and be counted or we're gone," he told the *Pink's* sister paper the *Bournemouth Echo*.

"Ability gets you so far and we have got ability, but you have got to do the other side of the game which is about desire, commitment and winning personal battles. There are not enough players doing that. As I said to the boys afterwards, we're halfway through the season, we're in the mire and we've got a big relegation battle on our hands. It isn't rocket science, the job now is to stay in this league.



"I want people to look at themselves and come back and be prepared to put more effort in, and use the ability they have got on a more consistent basis."

Arnold, pictured left, admitted that a failure to defend properly had let his side down in the first half and that despite a better second-period performance, the game had already been lost.

He added: "I'm going to sound like a broken record but if we don't defend better as a team then we're not going to improve. Some harsh words and home truths were said at half-time and it was the first time I've lost it to a degree.

"I got the response I wanted as we stopped them playing and it was a better second half. But we have to play like that from the first minute rather than the 46th."

Non-league News

Port get new keeper

AFC Portchester have signed Winchester City goalkeeper Ross Casey.

The stopper, pictured below, was a mainstay in the City goal for much of last season, but was dislodged by Jason Collins at the start of this term, who was brought in by now departed co-bosses Tim Cole and Danny Robinson.

After their departure and new manager Paul Masters' arrival, the Citizens brought in Blackfield & Langley custodian Gareth Barfoot, meaning Casey's chances to play became limited.

Winchester director of football, Dave Malone, wrote: "Ross Casey has now transferred to Portchester.

"Thanks to Ross for his efforts, particularly for staying loyal at the back end of the 2012-2013 season, when the club very nearly went out of existence! Good luck for the future."

Swap Chris for Josh

WINCHESTER City and Whitchurch United have agreed a swap deal for Chris Manning and Josh Green.

Manning, pictured, was one of the players who moved to City from Alresford during the summer. He goes to Longmeadow, while Green moves to the Denplan City Ground.

Manning had found first team chances under Paul Masters' new management few and far between.

Green was a youngster at Eastleigh and was at Romsey Town last term before moving with Carl Bennett to the Jam Boys.

The highly rated player has scored nine goal for Whitchurch this campaign.

Hythe sign Stacey

HYTHE & Dibden have signed defender Ed Stacey from Lymington Town.

Stacey originally played for the club in the 2011/12 season and moves back for a second spell.

Shaun a Money man

MONEYFIELDS have re-signed former Havant & Waterlooville player Shaun Wilkinson for a second season.

He arrives at Dover Road with Miles Rutherford's side flying high in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

TURN TO PAGE 48 FOR ALL TODAY'S NON-LEAGUE RESULTS

Non-league Football

FOOTBALL FIXTURES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday, November 30
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
SAINTS v Man City (1.30pm), Spurs v Everton (4pm).
FA TROPHY
Third round qualifying: Gloucester v Bath City, Hayes & Yeading v Horsham.

Monday, December 1
BARCLAYS U21 PREMIER LEAGUE
Division 1: SAINTS U21 v Man Utd U21.

Tuesday, December 2
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
All 7.45pm ko: Burnley v Newcastle, Crystal Palace v Aston Villa, Leicester v Liverpool, Man Utd v Stoke, Swansea v QPR, West Brom v West Ham.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
League 1: Barnsley v Doncaster, Sheff Utd v Milton Keynes Dons.
VANARAMA CONFERENCE
Premier: Alfreton Town v Gateshead, Chester FC v AFC Telford, Dover v Torquay, Eastleigh v Dartford (7.45pm), FC Halifax v Forest Green, Kidderminster v Nuneaton, Woking v Altrincham, Wrexham v Bristol Rovers.
HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP
Blackfield & Langley v Winchester City, Moneyfields v Lymington Town, Petersfield Town v Farnborough, AFC Bournemouth v Team Solent.
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Bournemouth Wicor, Andover Town v Folland Sports.
Sydenhams Football League Cup: Horndean v Fareham Town.
NORTH HANTS SENIOR CUP
Andover New Street v Overton Utd.
DORSET SENIOR CUP
Poole Town v Verwood Town.
EVO STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Arlesey Town v Chesham United, Biggleswade Town v Hitchin Town, Hungerford Town v St Neots Town.
Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Didcot Town, Bridgwater Town v Merthyr Town, Cinderford Town v Swindon Supermarine, Evesham United v Bashley.
HAMPSHIRE PREMIER FOOTBALL LEAGUE
North Hants Senior Cup: Andover New Street v Overton Utd.

Wednesday, December 3
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
All 7.45pm ko: Arsenal v Southampton, Chelsea v Tottenham Hotspur, Everton v Hull, Sunderland v Man City.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Corby Town v Redditch United.
HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP
Whitchurch United v Fleet Town, Sholing v Tadley Calleva.
SALISBURY HOSPITAL CUP
Amesbury Town v Downton.

Friday, December 5
FA CUP
Second round: Hartlepool v Blyth Spartans.
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Fulham v Watford.

Saturday, December 6
FA CUP
Second round: Accrington Stanley v Yeovil, Bury v Luton, Cambridge United v Mansfield, Milton Keynes Dons v Chesterfield, Oldham v Doncaster, Oxford United v Tranmere Rovers, Preston v Shrewsbury, Sheff Utd v Plymouth, Wrexham v Maidstone Utd.
BARCLAYS PREMIER LEAGUE
Hull v West Brom, Liverpool v Sunderland, Man City v Everton, Newcastle v Chelsea, QPR v Burnley, Stoke v Arsenal, Tottenham Hotspur v Crystal Palace .
SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE
Championship: Blackburn v Sheff Wed, Blackpool v Birmingham, Cardiff v Rotherham, Derby v Brighton, Huddersfield v Brentford, Ipswich v Leeds, Millwall v Middlesbrough, Nottm Forest v Charlton, Reading v Bolton, Wigan v Norwich, Wolverhampton v Bournemouth.
League 2: Exeter v Burton Albion.
VANARAMA CONFERENCE
Premier: Forest Green v Altrincham, Macclesfield v Woking, Nuneaton v Alfreton Town, Torquay v Barnet, Welling v Bristol Rovers.
South: Basingstoke v Sutton Utd, Boreham Wood v Hayes & Yeading, Chelmsford v Hemel Hempstead Concord Rangers v Farnborough, Havant and W v Eastbourne Borough, Maidenhead Utd v Ebbsfleet United, St Albans v Bath City, Wealdstone v Staines Town, Weston-S-Mare v Bromley, Whitehawk v Gosport Borough.
BARCLAYS U18 PREMIER LEAGUE
Southern Division: SAINTS U18 v West Brom U18 (noon).
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Folland Sport, Alresford Town v Petersfield Town, Andover Town v Blackfield & Langley, Brockenhurst v Bemerton Heath, Fareham Town v Newport (IoW), Fawley v Whitchurch United, Horndean v Verwood Town, Lymington Town v Christchurch, Moneyfields v Bournemouth, Winchester City v Hamworthy United.
Division One: Downton v Fleet Spurs, Hythe & Dibden v Tadley Calleva, New Milton Town v US Portsmouth, Ringwood Town v East Cowes Vics, Romsey Town v Amesbury Town, Team Solent v Andover New Street, Pewsey Vale v Cowes Sports.
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Biggleswade Town v Bideford, Cambridge City v Chippenham Town, Chesham United v Hungerford Town, Cirencester Town v Histon, Frome Town v Corby Town, Hitchin Town v Poole Town, Paulton Rovers v Arlesey Town, Redditch United v Burnham, Slough Town v Dunstable Town, St Neots Town v Dorchester Town, Truro City v Hereford United, Weymouth v Banbury United.
Division One South & West: Bishops Cleeve v AFC Totton, Clevedon Town v Yate Town, Didcot Town v Wantage Town, Evesham United v Sholing, Fleet Town v Shortwood United, Larkhall Athletic v Bashley, Stratford Town v Bridgwater Town, Swindon Supermarine v North Leigh, Taunton Town v Cinderford Town, Tiverton Town v Merthyr Town, Wimborne Town v Mangotsfield United.
HAMPSHIRE INTERMEDIATE CUP
AFC Gulf Western v Clanfield, Bournemouth Sports v Baffins Milton Rovers, ECS v Hedge End Rangers, Hamble Club v Petersfield Town Res, Otterbourne v Michelmersh & Timsbury, Stockbridge v Southsea United, Winchester Castle Whitecroft & Barton Sports.
PUMA ENGINEERING HPL
Senior: Bush Hill v Liphook United, Colden Common v Paulsgrove, Headley United v QK Southampton, Locks Heath v Fleetlands, Liss Athletic v AFC Stoneham
Division One: Broughton v Hayling Utd, Infinity v Four Marks, Upham v AFC Petersfield.
Combination Division: AFC Stoneham v Winchester Castle, Clanfield v Otterbourne, Fleetlands v Overton Utd, Hedge End Rangers v Liss Athletic, Liphook Utd v Paulsgrove, QK Southampton v Headley Utd.
BASINGSTOKE SENIOR CUP
Overton Utd v AFC Aldermaston.

NECK INJURY: Sholing's Barry Mason.

DIAPER: THERE'S STILL WORK TO DO

BOATMEN REBUILD: Dave Diaper.

DAVE Diaper is planning to drip feed young players into Sholing's first team as he looks to build a squad capable of fulfilling the club's ambitions.

The FA Vase winning manager, who took back the reins after Dave Fear and Mick Marsh's departures last month, knows the Boatmen are very much a work in progress, ***writes PETER HOWARD***.

With games coming thick and fast as well as numerous injuries, Diaper is planning on introducing some of Sholing's exciting youngsters to the Southern League South & West One side, who currently sit 17th in the division.

"What we've got here is a good quantity of players but not necessarily the quality of player that we want to have in place," the boss said.

"It's very much a work in progress at the moment.

"It's not an easy process – there are some players that I've got to put my arm round and move on to other clubs.

"The players have responded very well (since his return)," he added.

Diaper's side have won four of their last five games, including an impressive 2-0 win at Norfolk club Dereham in second qualifying round last week, and have been doing that despite carrying an ever expanding injury list.

The Boatmen's walking wounded now counts at seven.

First and second choice goalkeepers Matt Brown (broken finger) and Lee Webber (cut leg) are struggling.

Marvin McLean (ankle), Barry Mason (neck) and Dan Miller (foot) are all out.

Meanwhile, Kane Crisp, who injured himself falling down the stairs, and Sam Olaofe (hamstring) complete the injured seven.

Although Diaper recognises that it isn't an ideal situation, the boss, whose previous spell in charge spanned 14 years, is pleased with how things are going.

"We've won four out of five games," he said. "So we're not doing too badly, but when you're playing a team from a couple of levels higher you want to have a fully fit team and obviously not have so many injuries."

DESIRE

He added: "There's a long way to go, but the lads have been playing with big hearts over the last five games.

"There's a desire and passion among the group, which is really important.

"It's about getting self belief into the players. It's been waiting to come out and it's been galvanised in the last few weeks.

"These are players that have that commitment.

"It showed at Dereham last week. In the two visits we showed big character and won the game."

Diaper was also keen to stress that, although his team are a work in progress, he still has a vastly experienced and talented squad at his disposal.

"You can't forget that we've got players like Kev Brewster, Alex Baldacchino, Nick Watts, Sam Wilson, Jack Smith, Alex Sawyer, TJ Cuthbertson.

"The list goes on and on, we've got some real quality players in this squad."

Masters calls for consistency

WINCHESTER City boss Paul Masters is looking for consistency from his side as they look to live up to their Sydenhams Premier Division favourites billing.

City headed to Horndean today in fine form having won four consecutive games – scoring 21 goals in the process, but Masters, pictured left, is all too aware that his side must stay staunchly focused on their title ambitions.

"There's a long way to go," said Masters.

"We've got a good bunch of lads here and there are still things for them to work on.

"One of those things has to be consistency."

City thrashed Fawley 5-0 last Saturday at the Denplan City Ground.

Masters hailed the dominant display against the Oilers but, having overseen a number of resounding victories in recent weeks, he is still looking for more from his team.

The win was dedicated to assistant manager Glenn Burnett's father, Malcolm, who lost his battle with cancer last week.

Burnett's dad closely followed his son's football career and it seemed right to dedicate the 5-0 win to his memory.

"It was a scrappy first half but we grew into the game," Masters said. "We're getting goals from all over the pitch – that's a really good thing.

"We wanted to dedicate the match to Glenn's father, Malcolm, because he followed his son's career very closely."

Warren Bentley netted a brace to take his tally past 25 goals for the season in City's win over Fawley, while Chris Mason, Mike McEnery and Scott Sampson completed the rout.

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Non-league Football

ANDY FORBES MK II

Blackfield new boy reminds Robson of Wessex legend

BLACKFIELD & Langley manager John Robson believes that he may have found the new Andy Forbes.

Robson gave forward Mark Ford his debut against Bemerton Heath Harlequins last weekend, in the 3-0 FA Vase second round win, and was instantly impressed by the recently signed ex-Weymouth player, ***writes PETER HOWARD***.

It forced Robson to conclude that he may have a Forbes duplicate on his hands at Gang Warily.

The experienced manager is all too familiar with the former Eastleigh and Winchester player, having unearthed him from Andover a decade ago.

Forbes, below, earned praise as the 'complete striker' and netted more than 350 times in the Wessex League before moving on to Eastleigh.

The 35-year-old went on to have spells at Woking, Sutton United and now plays for Gosport Borough in the Conference South. He is known for his versatility and regularly plays in defence for Alex Pike's side.

"Mark was excellent on Saturday," he said. "He was good on the deck and he had a couple of chances and showed a really good awareness.

"I can tell he's going to get better and better.

"He reminds me of Andy Forbes when I signed him in 2004 for Winchester.

"Ford is exactly the same... he's great in the air and has the same stature as Forbesy.

"They're the same style of players."

Ford left the Bob Lucas Stadium recently, where he had signed a two-year contract in April.

He hit good form two seasons ago at the Evo-Stik Southern Premier Division high fliers but, after injury, found it difficult to work his way back into the Terras side, and was on loan at Frome Town earlier this season before dual signing with Blackfield.

Meanwhile, Robson is hoping that Lady Luck will favour the Watersiders as they look to progress in the FA Vase.

B&L face Wiltshire side Highworth Town at Gang Warily next weekend in the third round but the boss is remaining calm about their Wembley ambitions.

"What I'd like the players to realise is that we're five games from Wembley," he said. "But luck plays a massive part in how far you can go.

"A bit of luck and have the lads fit, then you never know.

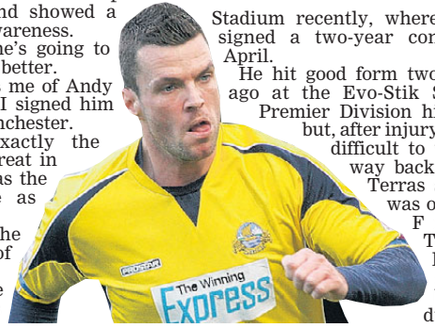
"The squad is capable, they're good enough and we are quietly confident."

Robson earmarked the knockout competition as one of his priorities this term, along with the Wessex Premier title, but the experienced manager won't be getting carried away.

"It would be lovely to think we could go all the way, and you can sit there and dream but you have to remain quietly confident and get that bit of luck," he said.

"Yes the squad is good enough but we don't want to get carried away here."

QUICK TO IMPRESS: Blackfield and Langley's Mark Ford, centre, in action against Bemerton.



Chalk: Blackfield are being arrogant

HITTING BACK: Ian Chalk.

Bemerton Heath Harlequins manager Ian Chalk was fuming after his side's 3-0 FA Vase second round defeat to Blackfield & Langley last weekend.

Blackfield boss John Robson praised his side's performance at Gang Warily but, from Chalk's point of view, the former Winchester City manager didn't give enough credit to Harlequins.

Robson's side came away with a clean sheet and two goals by Jesse Gould and one by Ekow Elliott to set-up a third round game at home to Highworth Town.

Bemerton felt hard done by to have Jack Slade's effort ruled out for offside, which would have put them a goal up. They were later angered not to get a penalty.

From Chalk's perspective the scoreline, and Robson's analysis, didn't truly reflect what happened in the match.

"I've got a lot of respect for John Robson," said Chalk. "But the report on Saturday's game is unfair to say the least.

"To say we 'lashed it forward' is rubbish.

"To not mention that we had a perfectly good goal disallowed and a major penalty decision goes against us is typical considering that would have put us 2-0 up.

"They played nice possession football but did nothing to worry us for most of the game.

"Their first goal was just luck, a cross that just avoided everyone.

"The second came from a throw-in that was given the wrong way and the third, although a great goal, is what you see in every cup game when sides are chasing a goal.

"Blackfield, in my opinion, are being typically arrogant and should acknowledge other sides' efforts.

"It is also typical that they fail to mention the start of the game where we should have been two up and, had it not been for poor refereeing decisions, we would have been."

It is the second time the two have clashed this season after Robson's side ran out 4-0 winners earlier this term in the Sydenhams Premier Division.

Bemerton will have to wait until the penultimate game of the Wessex season to settle the score when they welcome B&L to Western Way.

Non-league News

Town left 'scraping the barrel' for players

INJURIES and suspensions left Lymington Town boss John Pyatt down to the bare bones for today's trip to Petersfield Town.

Pyatt is without six first team players, meaning – as with the Whitchurch United draw last weekend – he will have to rely on a number of reserves to make up the numbers.

Centre back pairing Dave Marden (shoulder and ankle) and Luke Ansell (suspended) are both out, while first choice goalkeeper Stuart Williamson serves the last game of a three-match ban.

That leaves Pyatt, pictured below, with few options and, to add to that list, Ben Sullivan is nursing a reoccurring knee problem, Warren Kenner is unavailable due to work and Immanuel Soetan remains a long-term injury absentee.

"It's a real battle," said former Brockenhurst boss Pyatt. "We're really struggling with it at the moment but the reserves we've brought in have done really well.

"We're really scraping the barrel for players.

Despite those problems Lymington were sitting seventh in the Sydenhams Premier Division – unbeaten in four games – ahead of this weekend's round of matches.

After playing Whitchurch last weekend, who had been top of the league for several weeks this month, Pyatt concluded that Winchester are still the only outstanding team in the league and he expects them to climb the league and take the title.

"I don't know if Whitchurch can stay up there," he said. "But everyone is beating each other this season.

"The only outstanding side is Winchester and I expect Paul Masters to take them to the top."

It is a tough start to the December fixtures, Lymington face a trip to table-toppers Moneyfields in the Hampshire Senior Cup next weekend.

CALL NON-LEAGUE WRITER WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483

EASTLEIGH FC FIXTURES 2014/15

AUGUST

9 Nuneaton (A) W3-0
Reason, Stanley, Strevens
14 Aldershot (H) W1-0
Wright
16 Gateshead (H) D2-2
Strevens, Midson
23 Dover (A) L1-2
Midson
25 Welling (H) W3-1
Constable 2, Evans
30 Macclesfield (A) L0-2

SEPTEMBER

6 Southport (H) W2-1
Reason, OG
9 Dartford (A) D2-2
Collins, Constable
13 Altrincham (A) D3-3
Reid, McAllister, Reason
16 Forest Green (H) D2-2
Midson, Constable
20 Braintree (H) W1-0
Reason
27 Wrexham (A) L0-3
30 Bristol Rovers (H) D1-1
Collins

OCTOBER

4 Barnet (A) .....L 0-1
11 FC Halifax Town (H) .....W 4-1
Reason, Green, Fleetwood, Strevens
18 Nuneaton Town H .....W 2-1
McAllister, Collins
25 Kidderminster (FAC 4Q) A W 1-0
Reason

NOVEMBER

1 Chester H .....W 3-2
Strevens, Fleetwood (pen), McAllister
8 Lincoln City (FAC 1) H ....W 2-1
McAllister, Strevens
11 Forest Green Rovers A ...D 1-1
Constable
15 Lincoln City H .....pp
22 Aldershot Town A .....W 2-0
McAllister, Fleetwood
29 Torquay United .....A

DECEMBER

2 Dartford .....H
6 Grimsby Town .....H
9 Alfreton Town ..... A
20 AFC Telford United .....A
26 Woking ..... H
28 Braintree Town .....A

JANUARY

1 Woking .....A
4 Altrincham ..... H
17 FC Halifax Town .....A
24 Wrexham .....H
31 Kidderminster .....A

FEBRUARY

2 AFC Telford United .....H
10 Southport .....A
14 Torquay United .....H
21 Chester .....A
28 Macclesfield Town ..... H

MARCH

7 Bristol Rovers ..... A
14 Barnet ..... H
21 Grimsby Town .....A
28 Gateshead .....A

APRIL

4 Dover Athletic .....H
6 Welling United .....A
11 Alfreton Town ..... H
18 Lincoln City ..... A
25 Kidderminster ..... H

CHRIS TODD: FOOTBA

Eastleigh defender is a man in demand

'YOU'RE not doing another interview are you?' is one of the more repeatable of the jocular barbs aimed by teammates in Chris Todd's direction, as he prepares to talk about one of the more hectic lifestyles that any footballer could possibly lead.

Todd is a man in demand, and with good reason.

Eastleigh's Conference South title winning defender hasn't been resting on his laurels since that achievement was confirmed in April this year.

Todd was quickly adding to his duties at the Silverlake Stadium, being appointed to the positon of player/coach in manager Richard Hill's backroom reshuffle soon after the season's end. Summer wasn't a time for thumb twiddling.

There was, after all, a film to shoot.

And now, Todd has teamed up with his brother-in-law, Tom Watson, to release a charity single titled *Save Me*.

It is with his latest venture into the music world that we begin.

"I was writing a poem. I know it sounds strange, but I do some random things.

"I just started writing something down and came up with this poem that I showed to my brother-in-law.

"He thought it was really good, and said that with all the feelings it contained he could make a song from it.

"I didn't think for a minute he was going to say anything like that.

"He's been a singer-songwriter for the past ten years and he was convinced that if we added a bit more to it, we could make a good song from it.

"I thought then that it would be an idea for the charity. I'd been looking to do something else.

"I've done the boxing and a football match. I've written a book. I just wanted a new challenge."

November 17, 2014 represented the sixth anniversary of the day when Todd was diagnosed with Chronic Myeloid Leukaemia.

The 33-year-old's is a tale of recovery, as depicted in his book *More Than Football In The Blood*.

Proceeds from sales of that book, as well as those from an ensuing fund-raising football match and a boxing night in July 2010, in which he laced up the gloves and got in the ring himself (and won), have all been funnelled to Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research.

Every penny raised by sales of his song is going to the same organisation, whom Todd describes as 'the people who saved my life'.

SPECIAL DAY: Chris Todd celebrates after Eastleigh secured the Conference South title with victory over Basingstoke last April.

He explains further: "I remember when I was first told, I instantly thought about other people.

"You're almost oblivious to cancer until something happens to yourself, or to somebody in your family or close to you.

"Until we came to do the song, my brother-in-law didn't know how these research companies work.

"That was when I explained that the tablet I take today, which enables me to keep playing football and allows me to do my day-to-day stuff, was invented by Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research, who passed it on to the NHS."

Todd referred, last year, to that tablet as my 'super pill', adding: "It's incredible. I take it each night, and it keeps me alive because it keeps away the badness of the leukaemia."

He admits that he still experiences moments of disbelief concerning what happened to him, as well as encountering triggers for reflection on his diagnosis with a serious illness at the tender age of 27.

"It's weird. I get on with life now. I'm able to because I'm receiving these great treatments.

"Sometimes, though, I'll see a story and think 'Jeez – that actually could have been me'.

FOR THE LATEST EASTLEIGH NEWS GO TO

LER, LYRICIST, ACTOR

"I see the bad stories and think I'm just such a lucky person to be able to do what I'm still doing.

"I don't take life for granted. I wake up every morning, still to this day, and think 'I'm still here'.

"I've got three amazing kids, which I didn't think would be possible, an amazing wife and great family and support."

A Conference Premier play-off final winner with Torquay United at Wembley, exactly six months after receiving the news that would change his life, Todd has resolved to try his hand at all the things that take his fancy – opportunities he might have previously bypassed.

It is that attitude which has catapulted the Spitfires man into his current guise as a lyricist.

"I think, in life, you put yourself in a bubble. You become good at something and then think 'That's it. I'll just keep on doing what I'm doing, stay comfortable, stay happy and just do what I've got to do every day.'

"But I think when something bad hits you it causes a big reaction and everything changes.

"You just think 'Right, I'm going to try something different. I'm only here once. Why not try having a go at doing the most random things you can do?'

"You don't actually know if you'll enjoy all these things unless you try.

"That's my theory. I'll try anything.

"That's how I came to be involved with the Big C choir (in 2012 he was a member of a 35-strong choir, all of whom had been diagnosed with cancer, which performed at the Royal Albert Hall as part of Channel 4's *Stand Up To Cancer* telethon).

"These things that I've been doing have made my life better. I'm experiencing different things, and I've made myself a better person.

"It's been amazing and, because of the treatments, I've been given a second chance in life."

Todd hopes to sell 'a load' of copies of his single, which will be priced at 79p – "the same as a loaf of bread".

While he hopes to "make a huge difference to the treatment of leukaemia" with his singing endeavours, it is Help For Heroes, the charity whose mission is to support wounded British service people and their families, who will benefit from Todd's first foray into the acting world.

His participation in a short film, *Meet Again*, signals the realisation of yet another long harboured ambition.

"In my younger life I wanted to do a bit of modelling.

"People used to say 'You could be a model' and you just say 'Yeah, whatever'.

"I thought they were taking the mick, but I ended up having a go.

"I like being in front of the camera so I did a catalogue shoot and then another job.

(Regarding his acting) "I put myself on a website that makes your details available and explains what you want to do.

"That led to me doing a couple of videos for Sky Sports News.

"Evelyn Rei, who is the producer of the film (which is due for release early in 2015), stumbled across my details and thought that I'd be perfect for the role.

"She asked me if I'd like to be an actor. I laughed at first and just thought 'Really?'

"But then I just decided "Nah, you've got to do it.'

"My new attitude to life is to do things that I've never done before, so I did it.

"The whole thing was an incredible experience and hopefully some more opportunities will come from it, because I really enjoyed it."

Todd confesses that initially, on set in Devon, he had to contend with some unfamiliar butterflies, but he was soon tackling his "main role" – he plays a soldier who is fighting in World War II - with all the zeal that he is more used to channelling towards defending his goal on a football pitch.

"It threw me a bit. I was nervous for once. I don't really get nervous.

"It was a bit like a football match, in that you get the nerves before a game, but I turned up and met the crew and all the people who were there, and I just took off.

"I just enjoyed it and really let loose and got right into it. A few times I found myself telling people

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

dailyecho.co.uk/sport/football/eastleighfc/

Sports Quiz

1 Where did Roy Keane begin his managerial career in 2006?

2 Jacques Brunel is the coach of which national rugby union team?

3 How many medals did Great Britain win at the Sochi Winter Olympics earlier this year?

4 Going into this weekend's Premier League fixtures which team have the meanest defence, with just six goals conceded in their 12 games so far?

5 England will kick off their Cricket World Cup campaign in February against which country?

6 Who finished second behind Usain Bolt in both the 100m and 200m at the 2012 Olympics?

7 Who was the last British player to win the European Golden Boot?

8 Who are the only two England players in the top 20 of the ICC Test batting rankings?

See question 13

9 Which Formula One Grand Prix is held at the Sepang International Circuit?

10 Who scored England's try in the 2003 Rugby World Cup final against Australia?

11 Sergio Aguero started his career at which club?

12 The Singapore Slammers, the Micromax Indian Aces and the Manila Mavericks are teams from which sport?

13 At what weight does Chris Eubank Jr, pictured above, fight?

14 In snooker, the 2014 UK Championship will take place in which city?

15 Two-time Olympic shot put champion Valerie Adams comes from which country?

ANSWERS

1 Sunderland; 2 Italy; 3 Four; 4 Southampton; 5 Australia; 6 Yohan Blake; 7 Kevin Phillips (2000); 8 Joe Root (ninth) and Ian Bell (19th); 9 Malaysian; 10 Jason Robinson; 11 Independiente; 12 Tennis; 13 Middleweight; 14 York; 15 New Zealand.

Non-league Football

CHERRIES 2014/15

AUGUST

9: Huddersfield Town (A) . . . . . .W 4-0
Pugh, Wilson 2, Kermorgant
12 Exeter (A) League Cup . . . . . .W 2-0
OG, Gosling
16: Brentford (H) . . . . . .W 1-0
Stanislas
19: Nottm Forest (H) . . . . . .L 1-2
Wilson
23: Blackburn Rovers (A) . . . . . .L 2-3
Pitman, Cook
26: Northampton (H) Lge Cup . . . . .W 3-0
Gosling, Pitman, Wilson
30: Norwich City (A) . . . . . .D 1-1
Wilson

SEPTEMBER

13: Rotherham (H) . . . . . .D 1-1
Cook
16: Leeds Utd (H) . . . . . .L 1-3
Surman
20: Watford (A) . . . . . .D 1-1
Arter
27: Wigan Athletic (H) . . . . . .W 2-0
Kermorgant, Francis
30: Derby County (A) . . . . . .L 0-2

OCTOBER

4: Bolton Wanderers (A) . . . . . .W 2-1
Wilson (2)
18: Charlton Athletic H . . . . . .W 1-0
Wilson
21: Reading H . . . . . .W 3-0
Wilson, Pitman 2
25: Birmingham City A 8-0
Pitman, Wilson, Ritchie, Pugh 3, Rantie 2
28: West Brom (H) League Cup . . .W 2-1
O'Kane, Wilson

NOVEMBER

1: Brighton . . . .W 3-2
Greer og, Pugh, Kermorgant,
4: Sheffield Wed . . . .W 2-0
Surman, Fraser
8: Middlesbrough A . . . . . .D 0-0
22: Ipswich Town . . . . . .D 2-2
Kermorgant, Ritchie
29: Millwall . . . .H

DECEMBER

6: Wolves . . . . . .A
13: Cardiff City . . . . . .H
20: Blackpool . . . . . .A
26: Fulham . . . . . .H
28: Millwall . . . . . .A

JANUARY

10: Norwich City . . . . . .H
17: Rotherham United . . . .A
24: Leeds United . . . .A
31: Watford . . . . . .H

FEBRUARY

7: Wigan Athletic . . . .A
10: Derby County (7.45pm) . . . . . .H
14: Huddersfield . . . . . .H
21: Brentford . . . . . .A
25: Nottingham Forest (7.45pm) . . . . . A
28: Blackburn Rovers . . . .H

MARCH

3: Wolves (7.45pm) . . . . . .H
7: Fulham . . . . . .A
14: Blackpool . . . . . .H
17: Cardiff City (7.45pm) . . . . . .A
21: Middlesbrough (3pm) . . . . . .H

APRIL

4: Ipswich Town . . . . . .A
6: Birmingham City . . . .H
11: Brighton . . . . . .A
14: Reading (8pm) . . . . . .A
18: Sheffield Wednesday . . . .H
25: Bolton Wanderers . . . . . .H

MAY

2: Charlton Athletic . . . . . .A

From page 25

TODD GETS A TOTALLY NEW OUTLOOK...

what to do, and had to tell myself to calm down.

"It's something that I'm really glad I've done. It's a short film – about twenty minutes, but it's a 'proper' film.

"It's listed on IMDb and it's for a great cause. I'm looking forward to seeing it.

"I've only seen the trailer which does come across really well.

"There are some great scenes in there."

To the day job, and the only downside for Todd, during a campaign in which Eastleigh are flourishing in non-league's top-flight, is a lack of personal playing time.

He has started only three league fixtures for his club, making a further five appearances in all from the bench.

For a man who in the latter stages of last season declared himself to be 'probably enjoying my football more than ever', it is a situation that has required some mental adjustment.

"It has been frustrating.

"You go from a full season of playing week-in-week-out, and then all of a sudden that is taken away from you.

"The gaffer did say when we spoke in the summer that I wasn't going to start every week.

"It would be a case of being a bit-part player, coming in here and there and doing your bit for the squad.

"I'm more of a team player now, rather than someone who's doing his thing in each game.

" I've got to do other things to help the team. It's different, but I've accepted it now.

"Don't get me wrong, I love playing. If my chance comes, I'm ready and the gaffer knows that. He knows he can rely on me."

Of late, one of the former Swansea City player's regular assignments has required him to come on with a game in its dying embers, his job to bolster the team's defensive ranks in order to see out victory.

Todd agrees that particular task leaves him on something of a hiding to nothing – retain the status quo and nobody remembers his involvement, let slip a lead and his introduction might be pinpointed as the reason for it all going wrong.

"I'm warming up at times and there's only five or ten minutes to go, and I can see that the gaffer is thinking "I'll get him on".

"You can't win at that stage. You're going on to stop them scoring and to not make a mistake in those final few minutes.

"But, that's why he has got me – because I've got experience and I can do that.

"I can get on there and calm things down; help the lads with my voice and with my heading, or put my body on the line for the last couple of minutes."

Although watching on from the side-lines is a fairly new phenomenon to him, Todd says that his coaching responsibilities have compelled him to become far more absorbed by events on the pitch than would ever have formerly been the case.

"Trust me, players, when they're on the bench don't take much notice. I certainly didn't.

"You sit there and all you want to do is get on the pitch.

"You're not thinking about who you're going to be playing against - you just want to get on that pitch and express yourself.

"I look at it in a completely different way now.

"I'm sitting there, writing my notes, listening to what the gaffer's got to say.

"It's a totally different outlook. I'm looking for shape, who is dangerous, just trying to help the gaffer along.

"I needed to take that step, though, to get to know that other side of the game. I'm learning so much.

"It's surprising how many people watch football, and just watch the ball.

"Someone scores and they think "Great it's a goal, he scored, brilliant, what a player".

"But they actually miss the part where a full-back pulls in behind somebody.

"It is a totally different outlook for me now. You don't realise that until you sit back and take an overall view."

It isn't only match-days on which Todd's remit has expanded considerably. Training now demands more than just arriving on time and pulling the boots on.

"If I'm being honest, the gaffer had to give me a kick up the butt to start with because I was still in playing mode – not understanding that I had to get stuff ready, get bibs and cones ready and make sure all the balls were out.

"You don't see that as a player. You just turn up for training and

Non-lea Football

ON THE PITCH: Chris Todd in action for Eastleigh

everything is there for you.

"The gaffer put me in my place a few times, and that's been for the good. Since then it's been brilliant.

"I've enjoyed doing it, I've expressed myself – and the gaffer's given me a lot of praise, which has been great."

It is one of football's great peculiarities that when a senior man assumes higher status, his corresponding duties include some of the more menial training ground tasks.

How has Todd, for example, adapted to being one of the men accountable for ensuring that each session begins and ends with the same number of footballs present?

"It took a while, trust me. I was thinking 'I shouldn't have to do that'. Not in an arrogant way. I was just in player mode.

"But the gaffer has got me into shape and I don't even think about it now.

"I just get on with it and make sure that things are done. If they're not done, then things won't be right when you do your sessions.

"It's been a real learning curve and I feel I'm getting better all the time.

"I'm thankful to the gaffer for giving me the opportunity. He's let me be really hands-on at times, which is what I needed."

From the minute Todd first spoke with Hill in January last year about a potential move to the Silverlake, a coaching post had always been on the agenda for the Welshman.

He dipped his toe in those waters in the latter part of the 2013/2014 campaign, but it wasn't until the season ended that Hill confirmed he wanted his engaging defender to make a permanent step over to the 'dark side'.

How have Todd's colleagues responded to his new standing?

"They've been brilliant. They've just accepted me and respected what I'm doing.

"I still have plenty of banter with them, which is a good thing. But when I'm doing my sessions, they're switched on and they listen to what I'm saying.

"Even when I get to say my little bit after the gaffer they do all listen so, in that respect, it's been great."

On his transition into coaching, Todd speaks with a real intensity and excitement.

For anybody who wonders if his priorities are changing, the message is unequivocal – and what's more, he won't be hanging up his boots for a while yet.

"100% (his prime focus is football). I want to be a manager. I know I will do that at some point.

"I am capable of doing that, but the time needs to be right. I'm learning my trade again and that's going to take time.

"I've got to make mistakes, be good at things and be bad at things.

"If other stuff does come alongside it, like the media work, I love doing that and I would never turn that down.

"I feel I've still got at least two years playing. It's just whether the gaffer needs me.

"I love this club. I've come here and everybody has taken me on board: the gaffer, the chairman, the staff and the fans. Everyone has accepted me.

"It's been an unbelievable ride since day one and I don't want to leave that.

"The footballing side, if I get my bits here and there then happy days. If not, I'll just concentrate on my coaching."

It is another chapter in what is becoming the remarkable story of Chris Todd.

Next stop: football manager?

You really couldn't bet against it.

Follow @savemesingle on twitter for more information about Chris Todd and Tom Watson's single Save Me.

For further news about Meet Again, starring Chris Todd, follow @meetagainfilm on twitter.

Follow Paul McNamara on twitter @mcnamara_sport.

RICHARD HILL

POMPEY 2014/15

AUGUST

9 Exeter City (A) . . . . . D 1-1
Wallace
12 Peterborough (H) Lge Cup . . . . . W 1-0
Storey
16 Cambridge United (H) . . . . . W 2-1
Taylor, OG
19 Northampton Town (H) . . . . . W 2-0
Wallace, Westcarr
23 Oxford United (A) . . . . . W 1-0
Westcarr
27 Stoke City (A) League Cup) . . . . . L 0-3
30 Newport County (H) . . . . . L 0-1

SEPTEMBER

6 Burton Albion (A) . . . . . L 0-2
13 Southend United (A) . . . . . L 0-2
16 Dagenham & Red (H) . . . . . W 3-0
Dunne, Wallace, Barcham
20 Wycombe Wanderers (H). . . . . D 1-1
Ertl
27 Hartlepool United (A) . . . . . D 0-0

OCTOBER

4 York City (A) . . . . . D 0-0
7 Northampton (H) . . . . . L 2-1
Taylor
11 Mansfield Town H . . . . . D 1-1
Robinson
18 Bury A . . . . . L 3-0
21 Stevenage H . . . . . W 3-2
Wallace, Storey, Devera
25 Shrewsbury Town A . . . . . L 2-1
Wallace

NOVEMBER

1 Carlisle United . . . . . W 3-0
Westcarr, Storey, Hollands
8 FA Cup 1st rd: Aldershot (H) . . . . . D 2-2
Wallace, Hollands
15 Plymouth Argyle A . . . . . L 3-0
19 FA Cup R1 replay: Aldershot A . . . L 1-0
22 Morecambe . . . . . W 3-0
Westcarr, Wallce (2)
29 Tranmere Rovers . . . . . A

DECEMBER

6 FA Cup 2nd rd
13 Accrington Stanley . . . . . H
20 Cheltenham Town . . . . . A
26 AFC Wimbledon . . . . . H
28 Luton Town . . . . . A

JANUARY

3 Tranmere Rovers . . . . . H
10 Newport County . . . . . A
17 Burton Albion . . . . . H
24 Southend United . . . . . H
31 Wycombe Wanderers . . . . . A

FEBRUARY

7 Hartlepool United . . . . . H
10 Dagenham & R (7.45pm) . . . . . A
14 Exeter City . . . . . H
21 Cambridge United . . . . . A
28 Oxford United . . . . . H

MARCH

3 Northampton (7.45pm) . . . . . A
7 Accrington Stanley . . . . . A
14 Luton Town . . . . . H
17 Cheltenham Town (7.45pm) . . . . . H
21 AFC Wimbledon . . . . . A
28 Shrewsbury Town . . . . . H

APRIL

4 Carlisle United . . . . . A
6 Plymouth Argyle . . . . . H
11 Morecambe . . . . . A
14 Stevenage (7.45pm) . . . . . A
18 Bury . . . . . H
25 Mansfield Town . . . . . A

MAY

2 York City . . . . . H

LATEST NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL RESULTS – SEE BACK PAGE

Non-league Football

On the road...

THE English Schools FA PlayStation Road Show rolls into Winchester next Thursday in conjunction with Kings' home Under-15 national cup tie against Dorking-based Ashcombe School, kick off 2pm.

PlayStation are backing all the ESFA competitions for a second consecutive season, with stars like Aaron Ramsey. James Milner, Luke Shaw and Michael Dawson supporting previous matches in the competition.

ESFA are hoping to attract one of the Saints' stars to Thursday's fourth round tie, which Kings' clinched on the back of a dramatic 3-2 extra-time win over Petersfield, a repeat of the 2013 county cup final.

Kings' goalkeeper Alfie Glover made some fine saves to keep it goal-less at half-time, but twice in the second half the Winchester side took the lead – initially through Dan Holt, then Jack Down, only for Petersfield to level on both occasions.

Cue debutant Will Thompson, pictured, who scored a quite stunning extra-time winner, dribbling past a host of Petersfield defenders before capping his Kings' debut in style.

Duo in trials

Hampshire Colleges duo Jamie Clark and Charlie Gunston are at Lilleshall for England Schools Under-18 international trials this weekend.

Gosport-based Clark, who joined Itchen from Bay House at the start of the autumn term, captained the Hampshire Under-16 county side last season, while midfielder Gunston came to Sparsholt from Wyvern.

Henley draw

It's boaters and blazers time for Sparsholt's student footballers in the fourth round of the English Schools' FA Under-18 Colleges Trophy, which they won last season.

After beating Barton Peveril 5-1 in a rearranged third round tie, they are headed Thameside to face Henley.

Sparsholt trailed to a first half goal by Sam Morris against BP, but a brace of strikes by David Jerrard (2) and Hillary Ndagurwa (2) and a single from Izzy Badamosa booked the Henley trip.

SOUTH DOWNS ON THE UP

South Downs are top of the Hampshire Sixth Form Colleges League table for the first time, *writes MIKE VIMPANY.*

They leapfrogged Brockenhurst and Itchen in midweek when the New Forest showdown between the lead pair was washed out.

South Downs took advantage and, playing the only colleges league match to survive the wet midweek weather, trimmed Chichester 3-2 to nick top spot.

Once again it was South Downs' 4G all-weather surface on top of a dank and misty Portsdown Hill which won the day – the 3-2 result being a significant one.

Along with Ron Bertie's Andover, Chichester are newcomers to the HCL this term and, in the initial autumn period, they fielded their second string side in the competition.

But they paraded their full British Colleges League side against South Downs and twice took the lead before half-time.

Dan Stirrat got South Downs level at one point, scoring with a speculative cross-shot far out on the right-hand touchline – an effort the Chichester goalkeeper really ought to have saved comfortably.

Chichester regained the lead just before half-time from the penalty spot – George Perris saving the first shot, but being beaten off the rebound.

South Downs field their first choice side as the Havant & Waterlooville Academy team in the Football Conference Youth Alliance: they beat Woking 4-3 immediately after.

But the South Downs seconds showed the character and determination to turn things around after the break – a Kevin Brown brace setting up a 3-2 win, which the Purbrook side ought to have extended before the end.

Brown, who scored twice to inflict Andover's first defeat, has now bagged ten goals this term.

That was the only game the HCL could muster this week, the scheduled programme having been badly hit by bad weather twice in the past fortnight.

Wednesday's fixtures: Andover v Itchen, Barton Peveril v Chichester, Bournemouth v Portsmouth, Farnborough v Bournemouth & Poole, Havant v St Vincent, South Downs v Richard Taunton, Peter Symonds v Poole Grammar, Sparsholt v Brockenhurst, Totton v Alton.

Table:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Downs	9	7	1	1	26	12	22
Brockenhurst	7	6	1	0	61	4	19
Itchen	7	6	1	0	22	6	19
Andover	8	6	0	2	30	6	18
Farnborough	8	4	2	2	23	18	14
Barton Peveril	5	4	0	1	18	6	12
Queen Mary's	7	4	0	3	16	19	12
Poole Grammar	8	3	2	3	17	21	11
Chichester	9	3	0	6	23	33	9
Richard Taunton	6	2	1	3	16	15	7
Peter Symonds	5	2	1	2	14	16	7
Portsmouth	5	2	0	3	9	11	6
Alton	7	2	0	5	21	30	6
Totton	7	2	0	5	9	21	6
St. Vincent	6	2	0	4	12	36	6
Sparsholt	5	1	2	2	14	12	5
Bournemouth	5	1	0	4	5	17	3
Bournemouth & Poole	5	0	1	4	7	16	1
Havant	7	0	0	7	5	47	0

Five-star RTC win tournament

RICHARD Tauntons are Association of Colleges South East Region five-a-side champions after coming out on tops in a 20-team tournament in Portsmouth this week.

Coach Tom Barge described it as "probably the best – and unexpected – performance I've seen from a Richard Taunton team since I've been at the college.

"We had an incredible day and, despite the odds being against them, my lads were worthy winners of the whole tournament.

"They showed an amazing amount of energy, discipline and a will to win."

RTC finished top of their qualifying group by virtue of scoring more goals (after points and goal difference were equal) with Bexhill.

In the quarter final, Tauntons beat Godalming 5-4 and the semi final knocked out the favourites, City College of Brighton & Hove 5-4, despite being 4-3 down with two minutes to play.

In the final they played Farnborough (who beat Itchen 4-1 in the other Semi Final) and amazingly won 6-1.

CHAMPIONS: Richard Taunton Colleges' five-a-side winners: Rob Smith, Charlie Hart, Reyhan Khan, Mo Aslami (captain and tournament top scorer), Luke Bergg, Joel Le Marquand, Dan Acuna, Brad Lambert, Tom Barge (manager). Front: Abel Saramento Carnerio De Almeida

LEADER: Richard Taunton College captain Mo Aslam ifinished as top scorer

Mo Aslami, the RTC captain, was the tournament's top goal scorer.

"The lads showed how with hard work and commitment they can succeed – something I pointed out to them, as well as being very proud of them," Barge added.

Richard Tauntons will now represent the South East in the national finals at Bath University over the weekend March 27-29 2015.

Winning the five-a-side tournament made up for RTC's disappointment of a 4-1 defeat by Steve Claridge's Highbury side in the British Colleges Cup.

Tauntons trailed 2-0 at half-time, but played really well in the second period.

"They were very strong, with a few ex-Pompey youngsters in their ranks, but we fought back hard and pulled a goal back with a 20-yarder from Abel Sarmento Carnerio De Almeida, which flew in off the post," Barge said.

"We pressed and pushed forward for an equaliser but got hit on the break in the last ten minutes with two break away goals."

HAVING A GO: Shay Hollingsworth of Richard Taunton College takes a shot from distance against Highbury. Photo: Ian Hinchliffe

TERRY PAINE'S COLUMN – SEE PAGE 7

Non-league Football

ITCHEN COLLEGE LADIES: Back (from left): Payton Howard, Nikki Keen, Levi White, Meg Fox, Ellie Harrington, Beckah Tonks, Steve Perkins (manager). Front: Georgina Axton, Hollie Agombar, Emma Whitlock, Dee Ali Alolo, Plamena Zhekova, Ellie Kirby, Beth Norman

Weather turns defining week into damp squib

WHAT promised to be a season-defining week for the Itchen College Ladies' football team turned into something of a damp squib, as both of their scheduled national cup ties were postponed due to the wet weather.

Itchen were due to play Brockenhurst College in round 2 of the ECFA under-19 national cup on Wednesday, but along with the majority of other games, the tie failed to survive the deluge earlier in the week.

Itchen are bidding to retain the trophy that they won so convincingly last year by beating York College 12-0 in the final at St George's Park in April.

Earlier this term, they beat Surrey-based Strodes College 10-2 to move into the second round.

Itchen have also entered the ESFA under 18 national cup competition this year, and have moved confidently to the quarter final stage, following comfortable wins against Peter Symonds College, Strodes College (again) and Worthing College.

They have been handed a home tie against Watford-based West Herts College in the semi-final of the competition, but initially they need to get past formidable quarter final opponents in South Gloucester and Stroud College.

Itchen were due to be travelling to Bristol to play the quarter final tie yesterday, but the match was postponed and will now be played on Wednesday.

CITY TEAM STUN IN CUP

THE only Southampton FL team left in the SDFA Senior Cup are Senior 1 Braishfield who stunned premier division Comrades 5-3 on penalties after a 1-1 extra time draw.

Their reward is a trip to Team Solent. Netley CS are home to Hamble Club Res, Hamble Club first team are at Otterbourne and the last tie is AFC Stoneham v Winchester City Res.

The SDFA B Cup final will pit Junior 4 rivals Thompson versus Upham Res. Upham defeated local rivals Waltham Wolves 3-1 with Alex Wingate, James Morgan and Jim Deeley doing the business while Thompson demolished Shield 5-1 with Jacob Brazil grabbing a brace with Billy Hunt, Calvin Gray and Ben Smith weighing in.

The two remaining A Cup quarter finals ended 2-1 with Athletico Romsey defeating Park Sports through George Haynes and Tom Munday. Shamblehurst recovered from a goal down to defeat Capital 2-1 thanks to Simon Hare and Dan Hardy. SDFA Junior A semi final draw :East Boldre v Shamblehurst, Woodlands v Athletico Romsey.

Redbridge OB emerged victorious against Sporting BTC O-40's in the SDFA Vets Cup. They won on pens after a 3-3 draw. Paul Jenkins scored all three for the victors with Neil Rogers netting all three for Sporting. Sporting first hit a bakers dozen against BTC O-40 Billy Kelly with four and a hat-trick from Andy Turner. Locks Heath thumped BTC Soton B team 9-1 with Pat Mulholland hitting four.

Vets semi final draw : Redbridge/Colden Common v Locksheath, Sporting BTC v Hythe Aztecs.

League Cup ties saw Burridge AFC defeat Nursling 2-0 as Pete Sherlock scored twice in the Seniors. Botley Village set up an all Botley clash with AFC Botley by defeating New Forest 3-1.

League action saw Bishopstoke gain a fine 4-1 win at Solent Saints all four goals by Joe Williams. Durley and the University drew one each and Real whipped Hedge End 5-1.

The Upham keeper punches clear under pressure from Waltham Wolves.

Senior 1 Bishops Waltham striker Josh Hibberd scored all four but his team were held 4-4 by Langley Manor. The big clash saw AFC Gulf Western turn over previous perfect Chamberlayne 2-1 Joel Portlock and Jordan Penfold.

Matt Alford hit four as East Boldre defeated Burridge 5-1 while Warsash defeated Applewood also in Junior 1.

Woodlands kept in touch at the top of Junior 2 with a 2-0 triumph over Sporting Wessex and Priory Rovers won 1-0 at Hamble Club Joe Kilty the only scorer.

New Forest thrashed BTC Soton A 19-0 Ross Jones with six, four each from Mike Boswell and Darren Shelley and a treble from Gary Stoner did most of the damage.

Top Junior 5 clash saw Knightwood Utd inflict a first defeat on leaders AFC Hiltingbury by 7-3 John Noble with a hat-trick. Matt Beale scored all four as Warsash Wasp Res won 4-2 at Athletico Romsey.

A bad tempered Vets A division match saw two off for Colden Common and the Aztec keeper off as the teams drew 2-2. Andy Harrington's double for Baddesley Park earned their first win 4-2 at Stoneham.

In the Vets O-40 section Humble Plumb won 6-3 at ten man Langley Manor with Sam Smedley at the double. Alan Smith hit a brace as Hamble Club edged a seven goal thriller with Hythe & Dibden 4-3. Simon Weeks hit four as Winchester OB defeated Wildern 5-1.

Shield struggle to break down Thompson's tight defence

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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

England slump to new defeat

England's batting let them down as they descended to a 2-0 series deficit against Sri Lanka, and seventh defeat in their last eight one-day internationals.

Despite Ravi Bopara's second successive half-century, England stuttered almost throughout against the home spinners on an awkward, used pitch at the Premadasa Stadium.

Then even after two early breakthroughs, they could never get a foothold in this second fixture of seven – whose wider signficance came in its timing two days after the death of Phillip Hughes.

A minute's silence was held before play, and both teams took the field wearing black armbands in memory of the Australia Test batsman.

England captain Alastair Cook explained on Friday it was mutually agreed here that the best way to pay respects to Hughes, who died of his injuries after being hit by a bouncer, was to play cricket.

When England did that, they got off to a poor start – and never became competitive with a total of 185.

In a match shortened by rain to 45 overs per side, Sri Lanka raced to 186 and victory with more than 10 of their share – and eight wickets – to spare as Mahela Jayawardene (77no) and Kumar Sangakkara (67no) put England in their place after two early breakthroughs.

In the absence of a 50 stand for the tourists, only Bopara (51) and Joe Root's hard-working contributions got England anywhere near 200 after Cook had made the obvious choice to bat first on a surface unlikely to become any easier.

In the two middle-order batsmen's 93 combined runs, they managed just a solitary boundary each out of England's aggregate of eight - paltry in comparison to their hosts' 22.

Tillakaratne Dilshan set out to make the most of any pace on the new ball at the start of Sri Lanka's reply – and with a mishook over the wicketkeeper's head first ball, he then added two more fours in Steven Finn's opening over.

England hit back, Finn striking when Kusal Perera miscued a pull to midwicket, and then Dilshan getting underneath an attempted big hit at Moeen Ali and skying a catch to Chris Woakes at mid-off.

CONTINUED ON FACING PAGE

Simon Carter
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SPORTS EDITOR

THE emotions are still raw, of course they are.

The tragic death of former Hampshire batsman Phil Hughes this week sent shockwaves throughout the cricketing world.

Hughes, 25, never recovered conciousness after being hit by a delivery bowled by Sean Abbott during an Australian domestic Sheffield Shield game two days earlier.

Nobody knows how the death will affect both batsmen and bowlers as they try and come to terms with the horrendous news.

Hughes' former team-mates at The Ageas Bowl will one day have to go out and bat again in a competitive fixture.

What will be going through the minds of men such as Jimmy Adams, Michael Carberry, James Vince and Sean Ervine?

These are experienced batsmen, but will what happened to Hughes live in their memories?

And what about the bowlers?

James Tomlinson, Chris Wood, Jackson Bird – the Australian who is set to play for Hampshire next summer – and Ervine ... will they refrain from bowling bouncers because the figure of Sean Abbott is looming large in their mind's eye?

Abbott, of course, is the 22-year-old fast bowler who is having to come to terms with sending down the last ball that Hughes ever faced.

Former England fast bowler David Lawrence fears Abbott may never play cricket again.

Hughes was hit on the neck, in an area unprotected by his helmet, after trying to hook a bouncer from Abbott.

Lawrence is uniquely qualified to empathise with Abbott.

He was just 24 himself when he bowled to Phil Simmons - who was not wearing a helmet - and struck him on the temple in a tour match in the early 1990s, resulting in a serious injury from which the West Indies batsman thankfully made a full recovery.

Simmons went on to play for his country again many more times but Lawrence still vividly remembers that day at Bristol, when Simmons' heart stopped and he required emergency brain surgery.

"He collapsed. They rushed him to hospital, and were able to save his life and take a blood clot off his brain - and he subsequently went on to play again," Lawrence said this week.

Hughes', and Abbott's, case is sickeningly different.

Lawrence added: "What gave me comfort was I was able to see Phil Simmons 48 hours after, and he was able to tell me it wasn't my fault.

"The bowler in this instance wouldn't have been able to do that. Hughes didn't make a recovery, wasn't able to talk to him.

"So my thoughts go out to him as well - because whether he will come back from this or not, personally I don't think he'll play cricket again."

Lawrence, whose own Test career was subsequently cut short by a horrific knee injury, would not want to see bowlers prevented from using the bouncer as a wicket-taking tactic.

"I don't think any fast bowler walks out there, looking to inflict danger on someone - or for them to end up in hospital, and lose their life," he said.

"It's a part of the game.

"You use it to 'rough up' a batsman, make him feel unsettled, and then you look possibly to pitch the ball up.

"I wouldn't like to see that taken away from the game."

Batsmen have used helmets ever since the mid to late 1970s.

They became popular during Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket, where Aussie David Hookes had his jaw broken by a delivery from Hampshire legend Andy Roberts.

Hookes was not wearing a helmet.

Former England batsman Dennis Amiss was one of the first batsmen in World Series Cricket to don headgear.

"I took out a motorcycle helmet made of fiberglass with a poly carbonate visor that would take a double barrel shotgun at 10 paces," he has recalled.

"It was very heavy and very hot. It also had no peak on so it looked like a helmet and not a cap.

"I thought batsmen needed helmets after I was hit once or twice on the head prior to WSC.

TRAGEDY: Australian batsman Phil Hughes

LEFT: former Hampshire bowler Andy Roberts, whose delivery once broke helmetless David Hookes's jaw

FORMER HAMPSHIRE TEAM-MATES PAY THEIR

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

EMOTIONS STILL RAW AFTER TRAGEDY

TEARFUL: Australian cricket captain Michael Clarke making a statement at the Sydney Cricket Ground earlier today

"But especially in WSC where I estimated we had 18 fast bowlers who could all bowl at around 90mph.

"Kerry Packer of course welcomed innovation and thought the helmets were wonderful.

"It wasn't long before in WSC other players wanted to wear them so I sent off to the manufacturers in Birmingham for another six to be sent to Australia.

"They were used by Tony Greig, Zaheer Abbas, Mustaq Mohammed, Barry Richards, Alan Knott, David Hookes of course, Majid Khan, Imran Khan.

"In the second year of WSC nearly all the Australians in WSC had helmets."

Amiss added: "Hookes had his jaw broken by Andy Roberts in one of our early WSC matches.

"He spent six weeks supping through a straw and his first match back he wore my personal helmet.

"His first ball was from Andy Roberts and it was a bouncer. David hooked the ball for six with the helmet on.

"Richie Benaud was heard commentating at the time saying "that was a great defining moment in cricket".

"I was delighted to hear many years later that all schoolboy cricketers must now wear helmets.

"We started them and I never thought at the time in WSC they would ever take off and every player in the game would be wearing them 20/25 years later."

Even so, helmets have not stopped the occasional very high profile injury.

Hampshire legend Malcolm Marshall struck Andy Lloyd on the head after just half an hour of the Warwickshire opener's England debut in 1984.

Lloyd was forced to retire hurt, and never played Test cricket again, his career at the highest level over after 6.1 overs.

Lloyd has recalled: "He bowled me a short pitched ball which I expected would fly over my left shoulder, but it kept low, swung back, and I turned in to it and was struck on the right temple."

Though wearing a helmet – "a flimsy, early prototype" – Lloyd suffered serious injury and was hospitalised for several days with blurred vision.

"My season was over," he said. "My right eye was damaged and had I been hit again [not unlikely given the effects of such an injury] it could have jeopardised my recovery.

"The damage was permanent and the vision in my right eye not as sharp. Consequently I never again scored the weight of runs to justify a recall."

Marshall was again in the news two years later when another delivery broke Mike Gatting's nose in the West Indies, leaving him with two black eyes.

To add insult to injury, the ball then dropped onto Gatting's stumps - and when it was returned to Marshall, a piece of bone was still embedded in it.

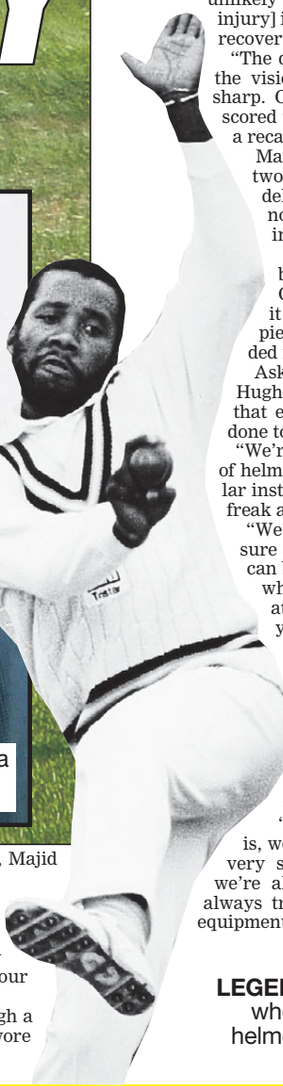
Asked for his views following Hughes' death, Gatting has faith that everything possible is being done to make helmets safe.

"We're always looking at designs of helmets and I think this particular instance, it was just a one-off, a freak accident," he said.

"We're always looking to make sure the equipment is the best it can be, especially at the top end, where balls are coming down at 90-odd miles-an-hour and you need to have the best equipment you can.

"Here in the UK we just relaunched the BSI (British Standards Institute) standard in June to make sure all those standards are met and we are continually testing the helmet.

"We know how important it is, we have saved an awful lot of very serious injuries already so we're always looking at it, we're always trying to make sure all the equipment is as good as it can be."



LEGEND: Malcolm Marshall, whose delivery struck the helmet-wearing Andy Lloyd

TRIBUTE TO PHILLIP HUGHES - SEE PAGES 34-35

KP: Cook should quit as skipper

FORMER England batsman Kevin Pietersen has urged Alastair Cook to resign as captain of the one-day side following a humbling eight-wicket defeat to Sri Lanka.

Pietersen, 34, was dropped from the squad by the England and Wales Cricket board in February and subsequently released an autobiography claiming the England dressing room had been beset by a bullying culture.

His personal relationship with former team-mate Cook has also been strained and reportedly broke down during last winter's disastrous Ashes tour.

In the wake of England's heavy loss to Sri Lanka in Colombo earlier today, Pietersen tweeted: "Dear Alastair, if you care about England's chances this winter, pls resign and just concentrate on Test cricket... #getHalesin"

Nottinghamshire player Alex Hales was dropped as Cook's opening partner and replaced by Moeen Ali, who made only two runs on Saturday. Cook managed only 22 runs before being bowled by Tillakaratne Dilshan.

England lose

FROM FACING PAGE

But the old firm of Jayawardene and Sangakkara took over in an unbroken stand of 149, each easing past their 50s – although the left-hander was dropped on 39.

Moeen, who made a maiden hundred in defeat here on Wednesday, was England's first batsman to go, followed by Ian Bell and then Cook in quick succession.

The captain has therefore in this format made only one half-century in his last 18 innings.

From 37 for three, Eoin Morgan and Root needed to rebuild – and doubled the score before the Irishman poked a simple catch to cover off Thisara Perera.

Root and Bopara dug in for a scurrying stand of 42 which ended when the Yorkshireman missed a push to leg and was lbw.

When Jos Buttler edged on to leg-stump, England were running out of resources to attack in the batting powerplay.

They eked out 31 for one - an acceptable outcome in the circumstances - albeit with the sting in the tail of Woakes' wicket, stumped off Ajantha Mendis (three for 33) with the penultimate ball of the 40th over.

Bopara had just had a moment of fortune against the same bowler, his mis-pull on 44 dropped by Mathews - but there was precious little more to come, once he swept Mendis to the captain at midwicket, and soon afterwards England were all out with two overs unused.

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

'I know what Sean Abbott is going through'

AS THE cricket world mourns Phillip Hughes, the thoughts and prayers of many are with Sean Abbott, the man who delivered the fatal bouncer, as well as the former Hampshire batsman's friends and family.

Alan Mullally is one of the few who can truly empathise with Abbott, a 22-year-old who has made his Australia debuts in both limited-overs formats in the last couple of months.

Mullally was only 18 when he delivered a bouncer in a WACA club match that left an opposition batsman with severe head trauma.

He would move to Hampshire a year later before forging a successful career with Leicestershire and England, ending his career at The Ageas Bowl in 2005.

But he has never forgotten the day in November 1987 when he thought he had killed someone on the cricket field.

"I had sleepless night for months after that," Mullally recalled, in an interview with The West Australian newspaper.

"I would wake up crying. I was devastated at first because I didn't know if he was going to live and then I was devastated because I did know that I had ended his career and all his cricket hopes and dreams.

"I hope that Abbott is well looked after because I know what he will be going through."

Mullally was playing at South Perth only a few months before becoming a shock selection in the Western Australia team in the Sheffield Shield final.

He was about to bowl to fellow teenager Jason Constable with the second new ball – but the tailender was unaware the new ball had been taken and was not wearing a helmet.

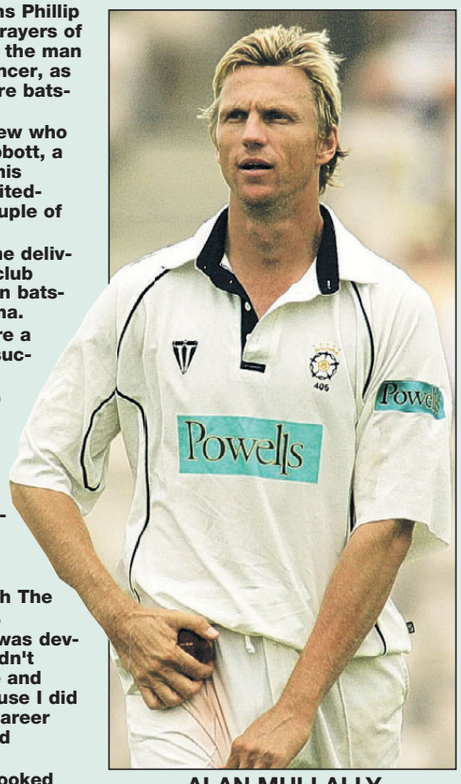
Mullally's first delivery was a bouncer. It rushed on to the batsman far quicker than he had expected and struck him on the left temple.

"The noise was terrible," Mullally said.

"It was like a bullet hitting. You could tell instantly that he was hit square because the ball rebounded back to me nearly on the full."

Australian journalist John Townend continues the story. Constable was dazed and retired hurt, before collapsing at home that night.

If not for the presence and medical skills of his father, ophthalmologist Ian Constable, he almost certainly would have died from his injuries.



ALAN MULLALLY

Constable was in critical condition for a while but recovered sufficiently to play a year later but always bowled while wearing a cap with a fibreglass guard sewn in to protect his left temple.

Mullally has never had counselling over the incident, which he said had haunted him over the years.

"When it happened, my teammate Rob Thompson came over to me, put an arm around me and said, 'Well bowled', walked me back to the top of my mark and told me to keep going," Mullally said. "That is about as much counselling as I received.

"I was 18 and just thought I could put it behind me.

"I am sure Sean Abbott will get plenty of help but he will need it.

"The irony is that I replaced Jason Constable in the WA colts team. Later that season, I hit a batsman in the face and knocked out five of his teeth.

"He came back in the second innings with a helmet and grille.

"I wouldn't bowl a bouncer to him though."

CRICKET UNITED

HAMPSHIRE joined the #putyourbatsout tributes to Phillip Hughes as they mourned the loss of their former player, *writes SIMON WALTER*.

The Twitter trend went viral after Australian fan Paul Taylor created the emotional hashtag when tweeting a picture of his bat and cricket cap on the doorstep of his Sydney home.

Hampshire responded with a tribute of their own; a picture of a Kookaburra bat like that used by Hughes, alongside a county cap and shirt, accompanied by the words 'Back in his spot'. It soon attracted more than 400 retweets.

Hughes played five games for Hampshire at the end of the 2010 season, including a memorable win against Kent at Canterbury that extended their stay in the LV County Championship's first division.

He died on Tuesday in a Sydney hospital within 48 hours of being struck behind the left ear as he tried to avoid a bouncer from young Australia international Sean Abbott.

Hampshire chairman Rod Bransgrove said the 25 year-old "will never be forgotten" by the county as the cricket community digested the tragic news.

"I cannot begin to comprehend the loss of a talented, ebullient and lovely lad," he said.

"In the Australia dressing room after the t20 at the Ageas Bowl in 2013, Hughesy said to me that after Warne, Katich, Watson and Clarke he felt like Hampshire's forgotten Aussie.

"I told him then, and I say it again now, you will never be forgotten Hughesy.

"You are part of our family. Rest in peace buddy.

"He was with us for a relatively short period of time but it's more than possible that he could have returned to Hampshire.

"He was so young, keen to improve and such a cracking lad."

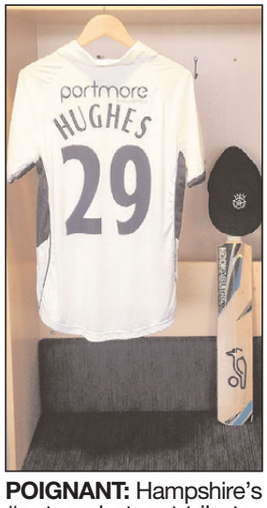
Hampshire players past and present also paid tribute to Hughes.

This is the team that finished the 2010 season with him:

Michael Carberry: Can't put into my words my sadness at the loss of Phil Hughes . We have lost a great talent but also a great person. #RIPPhilHughes

Jimmy Adams: Terrible news about Hughesy - what a tragic loss. I naively assumed that he would recover and I know a few others did too. Thoughts with his family, friends, teammates and colleagues. Can't imagine what they are going through and also what it must be like for Sean Abbott.

Liam Dawson: Life just isn't fair. Such sad news about Phil Hughes. Thoughts and prayers go to his poor family at this horrific time for them. And also to Sean Abbott and his family. Hope they get all the help they need at this tough time.



POIGNANT: Hampshire's #putyourbatsout tribute to Phil Hughes.

James Vince: Absolutely devastating news. Such a talented player and a great guy. #RIPPhillipHughes

Sean Ervine: For an absolute legend of a bloke nothing will ever be worthy enough! It's was an honour to know you and play alongside you. #missubuddy

Michael Bates: Horrified to hear of Phil Hughes' death. A great bloke taken far too young.

Dominic Cork (captain): The one thing I always remember is the cheeky chappie in the changing room, a man who always had a smile on his face, a man who always worked hard.

Chris Wood: Can't believe waking up to the devastating news about Phil Hughes, great guy and a serious player! RIP

James Tomlinson: Although he was only with us briefly, I remember him being a very strong-willed, down-to-earth lad who fitted in well with all our youngsters. I remember talking to him about his farming background, it was interesting to speak to someone with a different story to most cricketers. I'm also very sad for Sean Abbott. It's an incredibly sad situation and it's still sinking in. It just shows that any sport you play can be dangerous.

Danny Briggs: Horrific news about Phil Hughes, thoughts go out to family!

Simon Jones: Deeply saddened to hear the news of Phil Hughes' passing..Very very sad day, love and thoughts go to hisfamily/friends.... X

Dimi Mascarenhas, who is now based in New Zealand as

HAMPSHIRE'S CRICKET FIXTURES FOR THE NEW SEASON – SEE PAGE 36

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

FAMILY IS IN SORROW

POPULAR TEAM-MATE: Previously unseen pictures of Hughes in action for Hampshire, courtesy of Neil Marshall

coach of Otago Volts, was one of the first to react to the devastating news on Tuesday morning.

He wrote: "My thoughts and prayers are with family and friends of Phil Hughes. RIP you little legend #brus"

Kabir Ali, who was also a Hampshire player in 2010, tweeted: Just woke up to the sad news that Phil Hughes is no longer with us. Thoughts and wishes with the family, RIP

Hampshire legend Shaun Udal played alongside Hughes for Middlesex in 2009.

He wrote: "Can't believe it #philhughes has passed away, what a tragic waste of a fantastic young man's life #RIPHughesy, just awful news.

"Such gr8 memories of fun times @middlesexccc just cant believe that a great human being has gone #RIPHughsey."

Hughes was on 63 when he was struck on the back of the head by a bouncer from young Australian international Sean Abbott in a Sheffield Shield match.

Former Hampshire batsman Glenn Maxwell, an Australian teammate of Hughes, tweeted: "63 not out forever... #RIPHughesy."

Hughes' ODI shirt retired

AUSTRALIA captain Michael Clarke has announced that Phillip Hughes' one-day international shirt number of 64 will be retired.

Hughes' death on Thursday, as a result of the injuries sustained during a Sheffield Shield game, when the South Australia batsman was struck on the neck by a bouncer from New South Wales paceman Sean Abbott on Tuesday, has left a nation in mourning.

In tribute to the left-hander, a grief-stricken Clarke said Cricket Australia has accepted a request to retire the ODI shirt number of Hughes, who made 25 appearances in the 50-over format to add to his 26 Test caps.

Speaking today on behalf of the Australian team and the support staff, Clarke said at a press conference: "Words can not express the loss we all feel as a team right now. To Greg, Virginia (his parents), Jason and Megan (his siblings) we share the deep pain that you're feeling.

"Last night, I asked Cricket Australia if Hughesy's Australian one-day international shirt number, 64, could be retired, to

EMOTIONAL: Michael Clarke

which they agreed. That means so much.

"His legacy of trying to improve each and every day will drive us for the rest of our lives.

"Our dressing room will never be the same, we loved him and always will."

It was the first time Clarke had spoken publicly since reading out a statement just hours after his close friend's death had been announced.

And in an emotional address at the Sydney Cricket Ground, the 33-year-old paid tribute to Hughes' spirit and vowed to honour his memory.

"Apart from when he was home on the farm with his beloved cattle, Hughesy was at his happiest playing cricket for his country with his mates," he said.

"Things were always put into perspective when Hughesy said: 'Where else would you rather be, boys, than playing cricket for your country?'

"The world lost one of its great blokes this week and we are all the poorer for it. Our promise to Hughesy's family is that we will do everything we can to honour his memory."

ADAM RANT ON HUGHES TRAGEDY - SEE PAGE 9

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

HAMPSHIRE 2015 FIXTURES

APRIL

2-4 Loughborough MCCU (h) . . . . . fr
12-15 Sussex (h) LVCC
19-22 Warwickshire (Edgbaston) LVCC
26-29 Nottinghamshire (h) LVCC

MAY

10-13 Yorkshire (Headingley) LVCC
15 Essex (h) T20
17-20 Middlesex (h) LVCC
22 Kent (h) . . . . . .T20 – fl
29 Glamorgan (Swalec) . . . . . .T20 – fl
31-3 Worcestershire (h) LVCC

JUNE

4 Middlesex (h) T20
5 Somerset (Taunton) T20
7-10 Sussex (Hove) LVCC
12 Kent (Canterbury) . . . . . .T20 – fl
14 England v New Zealand . . . . . .ODI
18 Middlesex (Lord's) . . . . . .T20 – f
19 Sussex (h) . . . . . .T20 – f
21 Somerset (h) LVCC
26 Essex (Chelmsford) . . . . . .T20 – f
28-1 Middlesex (Lord's) LVCC

JULY

3 Glamorgan (h) . . . . . .T20 – f
6-9 Worcestershire (New Road) LVCC
10 Surrey (h) . . . . . .T20 – fl
14 Gloucestershire (Cheltenham) T20
17 Sussex (Hove) . . . . . .T20 – fl
19-22 Durham (h) LVCC
23 Somerset (h) . . . . . .T20 – fl
27 Sussex (h) . . . . . .50L - fl
30 Kent (Canterbury) . . . . . 50L - fl

AUGUST

1 Middlesex (h) 50L
2 Glamorgan (Swalec) 50L
4 Essex (h) . . . . . .50L – fl
5 Warwickshire (Edgbaston) . . . . . .50L – fl
7-10 Warwickshire (h) LVCC
12-14 T20 quarter-finals
17 Lancashire (h) . . . . . .50L – fl
19 Notts (Trent Bridge) . . . . . 50L - fl
25-27 50L quarter-finals

SEPTEMBER

1-4 Durham (Riverside) LVCC
3 England v Australia . . . . . .ODI
9-12 Somerset (Taunton) LVCC
14-17 Yorkshire (h) LVCC
22-25 Notts (Trent Bridge) LVCC

Key LVCC: LV County Championship T20: Twenty20 50L: Royal London One-Day Cup fl: floodlit

GOING BACK: Hampshire at Lords in 2012, where they won the CB 40 final

RETURN TO HQ

HAMPSHIRE will play their first T20 match at Lord's next season– and will return to headquarters after an eight-year absence in the LV County Championship, *writes SIMON WALTER.*

Jimmy Adams' side begin their first season back in division one at home to Sussex on April 12, but their first floodlit match at the home of cricket is the highlight of their T20 group fixtures.

After more than a decade of T20 matches at outgrounds like Uxbridge, Richmond and Southgate – and last season's visit to Merchant Taylors' School, Northwood – Hampshire will become the seventh county (after Surrey, Kent, Essex, Sussex, Somerset and Gloucestershire) to play Middlesex in a T20 match at Lord's.

A record domestic T20 crowd of 28,500 saw Surrey beat Middlesex at headquarters last season and Hampshire's visit on Thursday, June 18 is also sure to be a popular one.

Ten days after their T20 visit, Hampshire will play their first Championship match at Lord's since August 2006, when Shane Warne caused controversy by instructing his fielders to stand outside the boundary rope in protest at Middlesex's reluctance to declare.

Hampshire have returned for three cup finals since then, but this will end their longest spell without a first-class match at the home of cricket since they first played Middlesex at Lord's in 1907.

One disappointment is the conspicuous lack of outground fixtures. There are more games than before being played away from the principal county grounds in 2015 but Hampshire will only be playing at one outground – they return to Cheltenham for the first time in seven years to play Gloucestershire in a T20 fixture.

Director of cricket Giles White is pleased with the overall format, however.

Having five of the 16 Championship games played in the first six weeks of the season vindicates his decision to have strike bowlers Andre Adams and Jackson Bird lined up for the first three months.

A back injury forced Bird to pull out of a similar stint with Northants on the eve of last season, but he played his first first-first-class match for eight months in the latest round of Sheffield Shield games, until they were abandoned following the Phillip Hughes tragedy.

White is confident he will be ready to hit the ground running on April 12, when Hampshire take on Sussex at Hove.

He added: "It's the same format as last year – Championship heavy at the front end of the season, 50-over cricket in August and then the Championship run-in in September. That's pleasing because it suits our overseas players nicely with Andre and Jackson up front and Arafat for the one-dayers.

"And Sussex is a good place to start, they're a consistent first division side so it is a chance to test ourselves early on."

CONFIDENT: Giles White

CRICKET PAYS TRIBUTE TO HUGHES – SEE PAGES 34-35

WESSEX CYCLE-CROSS LEAGUE, THRUXTON ROUND

LEFT: Action from the senior men's race at Thruxton.

RIGHT: Action from the youth race.

HARGROVES SPEEDS TO THRUXTON WIN

TOTTON'S Andy Hargroves (Hargroves Cycles) won the latest round of the Wessex Cyclo-Cross League in tricky conditions at Thruxton.

The 22-year-old won by 48 seconds on the slippery course near Andover, which included tricky descents following heavy overnight rain that continued throughout the day.

Set up by local bike shop Behind the Bikeshed, the course cut up during the earlier races providing the seniors with the worst of the conditions, ***writes GRAHAM ROBINS***.

The previous round's winner, Matt Macdonald (Hargroves Cycles), was forced to retire but teammate Hargroves coasted to a comprehensive win.

His success completed a successful day for his Southampton-based team.

Crispin Doyle (Hargroves Cycles) was the winner of the combined vet/women/junior race, although he was made to work hard for it by Chris Rothwell (Ride 24/7).

And Steve Davis (Hargroves Cycles) was the winner of the +50 category from Tim Costello (GS Vecchi) and Chris Hutchings (VC Venta).

Tamina Oliver carried on her fine form this season by winning her tenth straight race of the league campaign.

Havving wrapped up the women's title with three rounds to go, she also leads the overall +50 category. Helen Pattinson (Solent Pirates) finished second ahead of Wendy Wood.

Edward Gronbech (Oxford City RC) won the youth race. He led from the front and was never challenged. Charlie Cooper (Eden Veranda Racing) was second despite missing his grid call while changing wheels.

ON THE RISE: Andy Hargroves at Thruxton. All pictures by Graham Robins

BUNCHED UP: Action from the junior/youth Wessex Cyclo-Cross League meeting at Thruxton.

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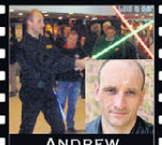
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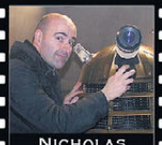
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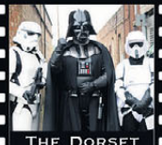
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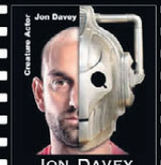

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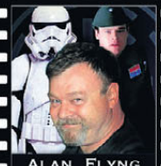
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Horse Racing

STELLAR TO STAR AT LEICESTER

TOM George thinks a fair bit of Stellar Notion so it will be disappointing if he fails to collect in the Lubenham Novices' Limited Handicap Chase at Leicester.

It is interesting George sends him in against handicappers for his first outing over fences, rather than put him in against novices.

Because of that, the Slad handler must feel a mark of 120 seriously underestimates him and these races tend not to be as strong as novice chases.

It is a route trainers will go down more and more given the lack of opportunities for the younger horses, but as an ex-point-to-pointer, Stellar Notion should not be too inconvenienced.

George was left scratching his head when Stellar Notion was beaten at Doncaster, but it turned out the winner, Un Ace, is way above average himself.

Soft ground will not bother him and he rates as nap material.

It is fair to say Northside Prince faced a stiff task at Sedgefield on November 11 and, with that in mind, he may be able to open his account over timber in the Join Us On Sunday 14th December Novices' Hurdle at Carlisle

Having his first start over hurdles since December 2011, he beat everything bar Gordon Elliott's Balbriggan, who last weekend made every yard of the running in the Troytown Handicap Chase.

Northside Prince was not running up to his old form on the level this summer so it is no surprise to see him revert to timber.

As an eight-year-old he will be no superstar, but he is certainly up to winning races with this.

Jimmy Moffatt's Morning Royalty made a very pleasing introduction to his new fencing career and faces nothing of the calibre of horse that beat him last time out in the NRC Saturday Naps Challenge Novices' Chase.

A decent hurdler, where he was not disgraced in Grade Two company at Haydock last winter, he showed enough over course and distance in late October to suggest there is definitely a future for him over fences.

Taking on the very smart Duke Of Navan and Urban Hymn, two of the nicest prospects in the north, Morning Royalty stuck with them until the second-last.

There is not much size about him, so to jump around a stiff track like Carlisle with such aplomb speaks volumes about his attitude.

Fill The Power should show the benefit of a recent outing in the Carlisle Racecourse Annual Members Handicap Chase.

A winner at Wetherby last season off 126, Sue Smith's inmate relishes a real test of stamina and is now only 2lb higher than that mark.

He ran in some top staying chases last term and will find this much easier.

SELECTIONS

CARLISLE: 12.20 Edmund, 12.50 Northside Prince, 1.20 Golans Choice, 1.55 Morning Royalty, 2.25 Spanish Fleet, 3.00 Fill The Power, 3.30 Oxalido.

FAIRYHOUSE: 12.30 Tarabiyn, 1.00 Allez Colombieres, 1.30 Annie Power, 2.05 Apache Stronghold, 2.35 Painted Lady, 3.10 Ipsos Du Berlais, 3.40 Art Of Security.

LEICESTER: 12.40 STELLAR NOTION (NAP), 1.10 Spin Cast, 1.45 Master Rajeem, 2.15 Rock On Rocky, 2.50 Rock Of Fife, 3.20 Private Malone.

DOUBLE: Stellar Notion and Northside Prince.

FAVOURITE: Paddy Brennan saddles Stellar Notion in the 12.40 at Leicester.

LEICESTER — Sunday's runners

Going: Hurdle: Heavy-Sft plcs; Chase: Good to Soft-Gd plcs; Soft on Flat crossings

12.40 LUBENHAM NOVICES' LIMITED HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 4). £10,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £6,256.

1 13533- **MASQUERADE (IRE) (223)** W Greatrex 5 11 8 .....**G Sheehan**
2 2112- **STELLAR NOTION (IRE) (284) (D)(BF)** T R George 6 11 8 **P Brennan**
3 122-16 **CROOKSTOWN (IRE) (19) (D)** B Case 7 11 8 .....**Kielan Woods**
4 00F52- **COULDHAVEHADITALL (IRE) (224) (D)(BF)** P Webber 6 11 5 .....**L Treadwell**
5 2224-5 **OURMANMASSINI (IRE) (15)** Miss S Smith 6 11 3 .....**T J O'Brien**
6 31-FF0 **MORNING REGGIE (28) (D)** O Sherwood 5 11 2 .....**L Aspell**
7 6-4033 **TOWN MOUSE (38) (D)** N King 4 11 1 .....**M Grant**
8 46-201 **GUANCIALE (25) (D)** D Burchell 7 10 3 .....**R T Dunne**

BETTING: 5-2 Stellar Notion, 3-1 Masquerade, 6-1 Crookstown, Couldhavehaditall, 8-1 Guanciale, 10-1 Town Mouse, 12-1 Morning Reggie, 14-1 Ourmanmassini.

1.10 EAST FARNDON SELLING HURDLE (CLASS 5). £4,000 added 4 to 7YO 2m Penalty Value £2,599.

1 /20P0- **BOSTON BLUE (F49) (D)** A Carroll 7 11 6 .....**L Edwards**
2 5 **CHIEF EXECUTIVE (IRE) (13)** Miss M Rowland 4 11 0 ....**A Pogson**
3 236/ **ERNIE (F454)** G Deacon 7 11 0 .....**M Grant**
4 **GIVEIMACHANCE (IRE)** Miss C Dyson 6 11 0 .....**J Hodson (7)**
5 5-550P **GLENCONKEYNE (IRE) (11)** N C Kelly (IRE) 7 11 0 ..**Steven Fox (7)**
6 PP566 **SPESSARTINE (IRE) (15)** S-J Davies 4 11 0 .....**R T Dunne**
7 0-3200 **SPIN CAST (25)** Harriet Bethell 6 11 0 .....**Miss H Bethell (7)**
8 3400-F **SWAMPFIRE (IRE) (28) (D)** F Brennan 6 11 0 ....**S Twiston-Davies**

BETTING: 5-2 Swampfire, 3-1 Boston Blue, 4-1 Spin Cast, 9-2 Glenconkeyne, 7-1 Ernie, 14-1 Giveimachance, 33-1 Spessartine, Chief Executive.

1.45 JAYNE FERGUSON MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 4). £10,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 7f 110yds Penalty Value £6,330.

1 3150-F **MIDNIGHT CATARIA (32) (D)** A King 5 11 12 .....**Jack Doyle**
2 444-21 **THE OULD LAD (IRE) (25) (D)** T R George 6 11 10 .....**P Brennan**
3 4326-5 **SKY WATCH (IRE) (12)** W Greatrex 7 11 10 .....**G Sheehan**
4 -33115 **FAMOUSANDFEARLESS (IRE) (35) (D)(BF)** D Pipe 6 11 9 .....**T Scudamore**
5 20P-P2 **MASTER RAJEEM (USA) (19)** N King 5 11 7 .....**M Grant**
6 122466 **MISSION COMPLETE (IRE) (25) (D)** Jonjo O'Neill 8 11 6 **R McLernon**
7 2P60-P **WINDS AND WAVES (IRE) (38)** H Daly 8 11 6 .....**J Greenall**
8 3-4613 **SAIL AND RETURN (171)** P W Middleton 10 11 5 ....**Kielan Woods**
9 422-F4 **DANNERS (IRE) (32) (D)** G Smyly 8 11 4 .....**C Poste**
10 06251P **PRINCE DES MARAIS (FR) (42) (D)** Mrs C Bailey 11 11 2 **A Thornton**
11 311P-5 **WINGED CRUSADER (IRE) (18)** N Twiston-Davies 6 11 0 **S Twiston-Davies**

BETTING: 5-2 The Ould Lad, 7-2 Famousandfearless, 8-1 Sky Watch, Midnight Cataria, 10-1 Master Rajeem, Winds And Waves, 12-1 Sail And Return, Danners, 16-1 others.

2.15 MICK AUDLEY LIVESTOCK TRADER 80TH BIRTHDAY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 4). £10,000 added 3YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £6,330.

1 -13332 **MR SHANTU (IRE) (119)** Jonjo O'Neill 5 11 12 .....**M Linehan (3)**
2 P4-312 **BATAVIR (FR) (162)** D Pipe 5 11 11 .....**T Scudamore**
3 422-41 **ROCK ON ROCKY (10) (D)** M Sheppard 6 11 8 .....**C Poste**
4 0-126P **MANDY'S BOY (IRE) (31) (D)** I Williams 4 11 7 .....**G Sheehan**
5 3U4214 **TIRADIA (FR) (27) (D)** J R Jenkins 7 11 7 .....**R Hatch (5)**
6 32-412 **A LITTLE BIT DUSTY (F13) (D)(BF)** C Dore 6 11 5 **Peter Carberry (3)**
7 324-50 **THE PIER (IRE) (189) (D)** Mrs A Brooks 8 11 2 .....**A Tinkler**
8 404-6 **JOHN LOUIS (15)** Miss V Williams 6 11 2 .....**A Coleman**
9 5F065- **BATHCOUNTY (IRE) (348) (D)** F Brennan 7 10 4 .....**O Garner (7)**

BETTING: 5-2 Batavir, 4-1 Rock On Rocky, Mr Shantu, 13-2 John Louis, 10-1 Mandy's Boy, A Little Bit Dusty, 12-1 Tiradia, 16-1 Bathcounty, 20-1 The Pier.

2.50 CLIPSTON HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 5). £6,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,899.

1 -14P21 **ONE FOR THE BOSS (IRE) (13) (CD)** D Burchell 7 11 12 .**R T Dunne**
2 P42653 **ROCK OF FIFE (18)** N Mitchell 7 11 10 .....**D Jacob**
3 -33405 **COOL BOB (IRE) (10)** M Sheppard 11 11 9 .....**Mr S Sheppard (7)**
4 1140-P **LORD FOX (IRE) (146) (CD)** S A Harris 7 11 7 .....**D Crosse**
5 62-344 **CRESCENT BEACH (IRE) (13) (CD)** Henry Oliver 7 11 4 ..**P Brennan**
6 45-02F **CROCO MISTER (IRE) (55) (D)(BF)** Mrs R Gasson 7 10 10**B Poste (5)**
7 P25P46 **REBEL HIGH (IRE) (24)** D Frankland 10 10 5 .....**L Treadwell**

BETTING: 6-4 One For The Boss, 7-2 Croco Mister, 9-2 Crescent Beach, 8-1 Cool Bob, 10-1 Lord Fox, 12-1 Rock Of Fife, 14-1 Rebel High.

3.20 FERNIE NOVICES' HURDLE (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £5,198.

1 5321-1 **PRIVATE MALONE (IRE) (39) (D)** Miss E Lavelle 5 11 5 ..**A Coleman**
2 51S-15 **BAKU BAY (IRE) (28)** A Stronge 6 10 12 .....**Jack Doyle**
3 3-20 **I'M A JOKER (30)** Mrs S Humphrey 5 10 12 .....**J Quinlan**
4 0 **SACROBLEU (FR) (39)** C Longsdon 4 10 12 .....**D Jacob**
5 055-50 **WISH IN A WELL (IRE) (20)** B Case 5 10 12 .....**Kielan Woods**

BETTING: 4-7 Private Malone, 4-1 Baku Bay, 8-1 I'm A Joker, Sacrobleu, 20-1 Wish In A Well.

CARLISLE — Sunday's runners

Going: Chase: Good to Soft-Soft in places; Hurdle: Soft

12.20 CARLISLE INTERACTIVE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 3). £10,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £6,330.

101 13214- **UN GUET APENS (FR) (219) (CD)(BF)** J Ewart 6 11 12**Lucy Alexander**
102 4PF-F1 **ROCKAWANGO (FR) (22) (CD)** J Ewart 8 11 9 .....**D Irving (7)**
103 3212-0 **SUPREME ASSET (IRE) (35) (CD)** D McCain 6 11 8 .....**J Maguire**
104 1132-3 **MITCHELL'S WAY (23) (CD)** G Swinbank 7 11 8 .....**P Moloney**
105 14211- **INDIAN VOYAGE (IRE) (236) (CD)** M Barnes 6 11 5 ....**D Bourke (5)**
106 2-1212 **EDMUND (IRE) (176) (D)(BF)** Mrs A Hamilton 7 11 0 .....**B Hughes**
107 U105-5 **SUPRISE VENDOR (IRE) (22) (D)** W Coltherd 8 11 0 ..**Derek Fox (3)**
108 1361-F **BERNARDELLI (IRE) (16) (D)(BF)** N Richards 6 10 13 ....**B Harding**

BETTING: 7-2 Rockawango, 4-1 Indian Voyage, 5-1 Bernardelli, 6-1 Mitchell's Way, Edmund, 13-2 Un Guet Apens, 10-1 Supreme Asset, 14-1 Suprise Vendor.

12.50 JOIN US ON SUNDAY 14TH DECEMBER NOVICES' HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,249.

201 1 **ZAIDIYN (FR) (18) (D)** B Ellison 4 11 5 .....**D Cook**
202 **AWEE DEOCH ANDORIS** W Coltherd 5 10 12 .....**J Kington (3)**
203 **EBONY EXPRESS (F43)** Dr R Newland 5 10 12 .....**Will Kennedy**
204 FP04 **LOVELY TOUCH (IRE) (182)** J Riches 5 10 12 ..**Mr T Greenwood (7)**
205 0/2 **NORTHSIDE PRINCE (IRE) (19)** G Swinbank 8 10 12 ....**P Moloney**
206 4/55-2 **SCORPIONS STING (IRE) (20)** J Ewart 5 10 12 .....**Lucy Alexander**
207 3- **SHARP (447)** D McCain 5 10 12 .....**A P Lane**
208 65-0 **SONNY THYNE (23)** Miss L Russell 5 10 12 .....**P Buchanan**
209 6345 **THE PHANTOM WINGER (23)** S G West 5 10 12 .....**J Colliver (5)**
210 5-64 **UN NOBLE (FR) (11)** N Richards 4 10 12 .....**B Harding**
211 0 **WEAPON OF CHOICE (IRE) (16)** Mrs D Sayer 6 10 12 ....**J Reveley**

BETTING: 7-4 Zaidiyn, 4-1 Scorpions Sting, 9-2 Northside Prince, 13-2 Ebony Express, 8-1 Sharp, 14-1 Un Noble, 20-1 The Phantom Winger, 25-1 Sonny Thyne, 33-1 others.

1.20 BOOKMAKERS.CO.UK EBF 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE (QUALIFIER) (CLASS 4). £6,000 added 4 to 6YO 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £3,899.

301 43121 **DIVINE PORT (USA) (20) (C)** G Swinbank 4 11 5 .....**P Moloney**
302 14210- **FIVE IN A ROW (IRE) (266) (C)** B Ellison 6 10 12 .....**D Cook**
303 310-23 **GOLANS CHOICE (IRE) (22)** Mrs R Dobbin 5 10 12 .....**B Harding**
304 0-465 **RESOLUTE REFORMER (IRE) (18)** W Coltherd 5 10 12 ..**J Reveley**
305 0-00 **TEDDY TEE (IRE) (18)** N Richards 5 10 12 .....**H Challoner (3)**
306 3P3 **U NAME IT (IRE) (18)** R M Smith 6 10 12 .....**C Bewley (7)**
307 06P033 **WILLIE WHISTLE (20)** M Barnes 5 10 12 .....**M McAlister**

BETTING: 15-8 Five In A Row, 9-4 Divine Port, 7-2 Golans Choice, 5-1 U Name It, 16-1 Resolute Reformer, 50-1 Teddy Tee, Willie Whistle.

1.55 NRC SATURDAY NAPS CHALLENGE NOVICES' CHASE (CLASS 3). £10,000 added 4YO PLUS 2m Penalty Value £6,498.

401 32311- **BONZO BING (IRE) (253) (D)** M Todhunter 6 11 0 .....**B Harding**
402 3014-2 **CLONDAW KAEMPFER (IRE) (18) (D)** D McCain 6 11 0 ..**J Maguire**
403 3114-U **FORWARD FLIGHT (IRE) (8) (BF)** Mrs S Smith 8 11 0 ..**J England (3)**
404 505-60 **IFANDBUTWHYNOT (IRE) (20) (D)(BF)** D O'Meara 8 11 0 ..**J Moore**
405 123F/4 **LORD WISHES (IRE) (29) (D)(BF)** J Ewart 7 11 0 ...**Lucy Alexander**
406 340P-3 **MORNING ROYALTY (IRE) (38) (C)(D)** J Moffatt 7 11 0 ...**B Hughes**
407 46FU-5 **TOUGH TRADE (211) (D)** C Grant 5 11 0 .....**J Reveley**
408 610-62 **YORKIST (IRE) (15) (D)** B Ellison 6 11 0 .....**D Cook**

BETTING: 9-4 Clondaw Kaempfer, 9-2 Ifandbutwhynot, 5-1 Yorkist, 11-2 Bonzo Bing, 15-2 Morning Royalty, 8-1 Lord Wishes, 14-1 Forward Flight, 16-1 Tough Trade.

2.25 CONNOLLY'S RED MILLS 'PRECISION NUTRITION' HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 3YO PLUS 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £3,249.

501 0-2600 **GRANARUID (IRE) (28) (CD)** Mrs A C Hamilton 11 11 12 .....**Mr T Hamilton (7)**
502 34-311 **SPANISH FLEET (20) (CD)** J Wade 6 11 11 .....**B Hughes**
503 22/23 **UISGE BEATHA (IRE) (28)** Miss L Russell 6 11 8 ....**Craig Nichol (3)**
504 0-1221 **DUN TO PERFECTION (11) (CD)** S Corbett 7 11 4 .....**J Corbett (7)**
505 60P/2B **NAFAATH (IRE) (15) (D)** D McCain 8 11 4 .....**J Maguire**
506 560-06 **PISTOL (IRE) (11)** J E Dixon 5 11 3 .....**Mr J Dixon (7)**
507 442330 **DUMBARTON (IRE) (19)** J Moffatt 6 11 0 .....**Lucy Alexander**
508 0PF02/ **KNOCKANDO (704)** Miss L Russell 9 11 0 .....**P Buchanan**
509 426233 **SNOWED IN (IRE) (31) (C)** Mrs B Butterworth 5 10 10 ...**S Quinlan**
510 F325-4 **DRUMLISTER (IRE) (24) (D)** Mrs D Sayer 8 10 8 **Mr T Greenwood (7)**

BETTING: 5-2 Spanish Fleet, 7-2 Dun To Perfection, 4-1 Nafaath, 7-1 Uisge Beatha, 10-1 Granaruid, 14-1 Snowed In, Knockando, 16-1 Drumlister, Dumbarton, 25-1 Pistol.

3.00 CARLISLE RACECOURSE ANNUAL MEMBERS HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS 3). £12,000 added 4YO PLUS 3m 2f Penalty Value £7,798.

601 R12P-4 **ALPHA VICTOR (IRE) (20)** W Kinsey 9 11 12 .....**P Buchanan**
602 P211-F **AND THE MAN (18)** N Richards 8 11 6 .....**B Harding**
603 F202-5 **MILBOROUGH (IRE) (18) (BF)** I Duncan 8 11 6 .....**G B Watters (5)**
604 1113-0 **TUTCHEC (FR) (26) (CD)** N Richards 7 11 6 .....**H Challoner (3)**
605 10P-50 **FILL THE POWER (IRE) (28)** Mrs S Smith 8 11 5 .....**D Costello**
606 4-1223 **SETTLEDOUTOFCOURT (IRE) (28)** Miss L Russell 8 10 11 ....**Craig Nichol (3)**

BETTING: 6-4 And The Man, 7-2 Settledoutofcourt, 5-1 Milborough, 6-1 Tutchec, 8-1 Fill The Power, 10-1 Alpha Victor.

3.30 CHRISTMAS PARTIES HERE AMATEUR RIDERS' HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS 4). £5,000 added 4YO PLUS 3m 1f Penalty Value £3,120.

01 0-2405 **ROSSINI'S DANCER (23)** N Alexander 9 11 12 ..**Mr K Alexander (3)**
02 234P-1 **MADAM LILIBET (IRE) (23)** Mrs S Watt 5 11 7 .....**Mr H Stock (7)**
03 F600-P **GREY AREA (IRE) (16)** Tristan Davidson 9 11 2 .....**Mr J Dixon (7)**
04 3U3445 **BILLY TWO TONGUES (48) (BF)** M W Easterby 6 11 2**Mr H Bannister**
05 0-216F **OXALIDO (FR) (15)** W Coltherd 12 11 0 .....**Mr S W Coltherd (7)**
06 446-06 **AMORE MIO (GER) (23) (D)** Miss L Russell 9 10 11 ..**Mr W Reed (7)**
07 04523- **TROUBLE IN PARIS (IRE) (222)** F Murtagh 7 10 3 ..**Mr L Murtagh (7)**
08 /4300- **SEE THE LEGEND (274)** Miss S Forster 9 10 3 ...**Mr T Hamilton (5)**
09 441-05 **BOLLIN JULIE (16)** D Whillans 7 10 2 .....**Mr L Ferguson (7)**

BETTING: 5-2 Oxalido, 3-1 Madam Lilibet, 13-2 Trouble In Paris, Billy Two Tongues, 8-1 Amore Mio, 10-1 Bollin Julie, 14-1 Grey Area, Rossini's Dancer, 20-1 See The Legend.

Horse Racing

A low-key day for Frankel foals at Newmarket

EXPECTED fireworks at Tattersalls in Newmarket on Friday failed to materialise as three Frankel foals met with differing fortunes.

Four progeny of the unbeaten champion were due to be offered, but the first lot, a son of Red Bloom, was withdrawn.

Two out of the mares Swiss Lake and Dorcas Lane failed to sell, as originally did a daughter of Kirinda (Lot 1087), who was led out unsold at 140,000 guineas but was later bought privately for 150,000 guineas by Dermot Farrington.

The Swiss Lake colt was bought back at 350,000 guineas, while the son of Dorcas Lane was bought back for 200,000 guineas.

A Frankel filly out of the 2007 English and Irish 1,000 Guineas winner Finsceal Beo was sold for 1.8million euro last week at Goffs November Sale - a record for a foal at public auction in Ireland.

The foal was sent from the Al-Eile Stud in Kilgobnet, Dungarvan, and bought by Farrington for a 'new Irish client'.

A son of Frankel, together with his dam Crystal Gaze, was sold for £1,150,000 to MV Magnier of Coolmore in the inaugural Goffs London Sale at The Orangery, Kensington Palace in June.

The colt was the first offspring of the late Sir Henry Cecil's champion to come under the hammer and Crystal Gaze is expecting a second foal by Frankel next year.

Crystal Gaze has already produced the classy sprinter Spirit Quartz, as well as Epsom Dash winner Caspian Prince.

The youngster was consigned by Tweenhills Stud.

On an otherwise upbeat day in Newmarket, last year's top price of 450,000 guineas was matched when Shadwell purchased a son of Sea The Stars offered from Oghill House Stud.

Shadwell have enjoyed great success this season with Investec Oaks and King George heroine Taghrooda, and the operation's Angus Gold said: "I knew we'd have to work hard to buy him – he is a gorgeous horse.

"Of course, we've had a little bit of luck with Sea The Stars!

"This horse does not look such as stayer as some of them, probably more of a miler or a 10-furlong horse. For us he was a standout of the week. He'll head to Ireland now."

WOLVERHAMPTON — Monday's runners

12.55 — 32RED CASINO HANDICAP (AMATEUR RIDERS) (CLASS 6). £3,250 added 3YO PLUS 1m 6f Penalty Value £2,028.

1 055203 **GREELEYS LOVE (USA) (12)** L Dace 4 11 0 . . **Mr J Doe (5) 6**
2 300000 **PERENNIAL (14) (C)** P Kirby 5 11 0 . . . **Mr Ross Turner (7) 3**
3 002242 **QIBTEE (FR) (12)** J L Eyre 4 10 9 . . . . . **Mr A J Alonso (5) 11**
4 245600 **MEDIEVAL BISHOP (IRE) (48) (D)** A L Forbes 5 10 8 **Mr T Eley (7) 12**
5 05-006 **TORETTO (IRE) (J37)** B J Llewellyn 6 10 7 **Mr J P Williams (5) 2**
6 646246 **CABUCHON (GER) (5)** P Evans 7 10 7 . **Miss K F Begley (7) 1**
7 440550 **CANDELITA (J18)** M Sheppard 7 10 2 . **Mr S Sheppard (7) 13**
8 3304-0 **TRAM EXPRESS (FR) (59) (CD)** S Lycett 10 10 2 . . . . . **9**
9 0540 **BLUE VALENTINO (9)** A Hollinshead 5 10 0 **Miss S Brotherton 10**
10 00-300 **JOSIE'S DREAM (IRE) (5)** J Hughes 6 10 0 **Mr James Hughes (5) 5**
11 65-R00 **RED CURRENT (26)** M Scudamore 10 9 9 **Miss P Bridgwater (7) 8**
12 234640 **INDIAN SCOUT (46)** Mrs A Murphy 6 9 9 **Miss Jo Mason (3) 4**
13 05000 **PEPPERELLO (58)** T Etherington 3 9 2 . . . . . **7**

BETTING: 3-1 Qibtee, 7-2 Greeleys Love, 9-2 Cabuchon, 10-1 Toretto, Josie's Dream, 12-1 Medieval Bishop, Candelita, 14-1 Indian Scout, 16-1 others.

1.25 — 32REDPOKER.COM NURSERY (DIV 1) (CLASS 6). £3,250 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £2,102.

1 000631 **PYROCUMULUS (IRE) (27) (D)** A McCabe 9 7 . . **B A Curtis 7**
2 0536 **CLAMPDOWN (104)** J Tate 9 5 . . . . . **L Morris 5**
3 06033 **FIRST SUMMER (19)** S A Harris 9 4 . . . . . **R Winston 9**
4 044 **FREEZE THE SECRET (IRE) (128)** D C Griffiths 9 2 **A Elliott 10**
5 00032 **PURPLE SURPRISE (13)** A Reid 9 0 . . . . . **D Brock (3) 3**
6 02005 **LADY CHARLIE (55)** J Hughes 8 13 . . . . . **J Fanning 2**
7 60645 **YA HALLA (IRE) (69)** P Evans 8 11 . . . . . **J F Egan 1**
8 330600 **KIDMEFOREVER (12)** J S Moore 8 8 . . . . . **6**
9 000 **MISU PETE (10)** M Usher 8 6 . . . . . **Hayley Turner 8**
10 0006 **OVERSTONE LASS (IRE) (35)** J Spearing 8 6 **E J Walsh (5) 4**

BETTING: 7-1 Pyrocumulus, 15-2 First Summer, 8-1 Purple Surprise, 10-1 Clampdown, 12-1 Lady Charlie, Freeze The Secret, 25-1 Ya Halla, 50-1 Kidmeforever, Misu Pete, Overstone Lass.

1.55 — 32REDPOKER.COM NURSERY (DIV 2) (CLASS 6). £3,250 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £2,102.

1 005 **YOU BE LUCKY (IRE) (18)** Miss J Crowley 9 7 **K Shoemark (5) 6**
2 000 **EAGLE EMPIRE (IRE) (19)** R Hannon 9 5 . . . **Josh Quinn (7) 4**
3 000601 **CELESTINE ABBEY (7) (CD)** J Ryan 9 3(6ex) . . . **J Mitchell 9**
4 033343 **FAST SCAT (USA) (7)** P Evans 9 2 . . . . . **J F Egan 2**
5 0054 **PAFIYA (25)** Kristin Stubbs 8 13 . . . . . **G Gibbons 10**
6 000 **TOTAL DEMOLITION (IRE) (124)** O Stevens 8 13 **H Crouch (7) 1**
7 000 **ANNIVERSARIE (66)** J Norton 8 9 . . . . . **C Beasley (3) 7**
8 0000 **WHAT USAIN (58)** G Oldroyd 8 6 . . . . . **B McHugh 8**
9 000 **OUT OF ACES (42)** K Ryan 8 6 . . . . . **S Gray (5) 5**
10 400 **SHEILA BELLE (IRE) (14)** J S Moore 8 6 . . . . . **L Morris 3**

BETTING: 3-1 Eagle Empire, 10-3 Fast Scat, 4-1 Celestine Abbey, 6-1 Total Demolition, 7-1 Pafiya, 10-1 You Be Lucky, 16-1 Out Of Aces, 33-1 What Usain, Sheila Belle, Anniversarie.

2.30 — 32RED.COM FILLIES' HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £2,911.

1 000631 **BINT DANDY (IRE) (31) (CD)** C Dwyer 3 9 7 . **C Beasley (3) 8**
2 51 **POLLY'S ROSE (14) (CD)** I Semple 5 9 6 . . . . . **J Hart 7**
3 006350 **WELSH SUNRISE (47) (C)(D)** S C Williams 4 9 6 **G Gibbons 6**
4 066641 **PENNY GARCIA (34) (D)** T Easterby 4 9 2 . . . . **D Fentiman 5**
5 400022 **BOOGANGOO (IRE) (9) (C)** Grace Harris 3 9 2 . **S Donohoe 3**
6 60-601 **ELUSIVE ELLEN (IRE) (18) (D)** B Powell 4 9 0 . **D Sweeney 2**
7 654012 **BE ROYALE (7) (CD)(BF)** M Appleby 4 8 13 . . . . . **L Morris 1**
8 523043 **DIAMOND BLUE (24)** R Fahey 6 8 11 . . . . . **T Hamilton 4**

BETTING: 7-2 Be Royale, 9-2 Penny Garcia, 11-2 Boogangoo, Polly's Rose, Bint Dandy, 7-1 Diamond Blue, 8-1 Elusive Ellen, 14-1 Welsh Sunrise.

3.00 — 32 FREE AT 32RED.COM NURSERY (CLASS 6). £3,250 added 2YO only 1m 1f Penalty Value £2,102.

1 006 **PLAY NICELY (46)** J Given 9 7 . . . . . **G Lee 6**
2 600 **GUMHREAR (IRE) (32)** J Tate 9 7 . . . . . **H Poulton (5) 2**
3 646 **CAPSIZE (19)** Sir M Stoute 9 5 . . . . . **J Fanning 13**
4 014054 **AS A DREAM (IRE) (18)** Mrs N Evans 9 4 . . . . . **R Winston 10**
5 022363 **SIMONE ON TIME (IRE) (12)** S Kirk 9 4 . . . . **Renato Souza 3**
6 005 **LET RIGHT BE DONE (17)** E McMahon 9 4 . . . . **G Gibbons 4**
7 000 **TOCORORO (IRE) (41)** E Dunlop 9 4 . . . . . **P Makin 11**
8 0306 **YORKSHIRE (IRE) (40)** S A Harris 9 3 . . . . . **B A Curtis 1**
9 050003 **SPLASH OF VERVE (IRE) (16)** P Kirby 8 13 . . . **J Haynes (3) 7**
10 000 **LIPSTICKANDPOWDER (IRE) (26)** W Jarvis 8 11 **P Mulrennan 5**
11 0000 **PISCES (12)** D Elsworth 8 8 . . . . . **Ryan Holley (7) 9**
12 066041 **MORE DRAMA (IRE) (14) (CD)** S Kirk 8 7 . . . . . **L Morris 8**
13 666004 **SMUGGLERS LANE (IRE) (14)** P Evans 8 1 . . . . . **12**

BETTING: 11-2 Capsize, Yorkshire, 6-1 Simone On Time, 7-1 Splash Of Verve, More Drama, 10-1 Gumhrear, 12-1 As A Dream, Smugglers Lane, Let Right Be Done, Tocororo, 16-1 others.

3.30 — 32RED HANDICAP (CLASS 3). £11,500 added 3YO PLUS 2m 119yds Penalty Value £7,439.

1 021352 **COUSIN KHEE (27) (BF)** H Morrison 7 10 0 . **Hayley Turner 5**
2 302042 **BUCKLAND (IRE) (12) (C)** C Fellowes 6 9 13 . **P Mulrennan 7**
3 -00120 **DAME LUCY (IRE) (31) (BF)** M Appleby 4 9 9 . . . . **L Morris 4**
4 262160 **ENTIHAA (31)** G Swinbank 6 9 8 . . . . . **J Fanning 3**
5 10-023 **HIDDEN JUSTICE (IRE) (33)** J J Quinn 5 9 7 . . . . . **P Makin 2**
6 211612 **MISTER BOB (GER) (14) (CD)(BF)** J Bethell 5 9 0 . . . **G Lee 1**
7 401101 **UNCLE BERNIE (IRE) (7) (CD)** A Hollinshead 4 8 13(6ex) **R Tart 6**

BETTING: 3-1 Uncle Bernie, 7-2 Cousin Khee, 5-1 Mister Bob, 11-2 Buckland, 7-1 Hidden Justice, Dame Lucy, 8-1 Entihaa.

4.05 — 32RED ON THE APP STORE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS 6). £3,500 added 2YO only 1m 1f 103yds Penalty Value £2,264.

1 300 **WHISKY MARMALADE (IRE) (14)** D O'Meara 9 0 . **S James 2**
2 544 **MISSANDEI (12)** M Botti 8 10 . . . . . **D Brock (3) 4**
3 0503 **POLITICO (14)** J Gosden 8 6 . . . . . **N Mackay 6**
4 004403 **AULD FYFFEE (IRE) (9)** J Ryan 8 0 . . . . . **L Morris 3**
5 000 **BEAUCHAMP RUBY (69)** P Fitzsimons 8 0 . . **J Haynes (3) 1**
6 005505 **BLUE BURMESE (IRE) (62)** M Usher 8 0 . . . **Hayley Turner 5**

BETTING: 5-2 Auld Fyffee, 10-3 Missandei, 4-1 Blue Burmese, 5-1 Politico, 6-1 Whisky Marmalade, 8-1 Beauchamp Ruby.

4.35 — 20 RISK-FREE BET AT UNIBET HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £3,500 added 3YO PLUS 5f Penalty Value £2,264.

1 650000 **LEXINGTON ROSE (16) (D)** B Smart 3 9 7 . . . **P Mulrennan 5**
2 03-31 **EXTREME SUPREME (27) (D)** D Shaw 3 9 7 . . . . . **D Swift 9**
3 060-00 **OIL STRIKE (16) (D)** M W Easterby 7 9 7 . . . . . **B McHugh 4**
4 056221 **GIVE US A BELLE (IRE) (7) (CD)** Mrs C Dunnett 5 9 7(6ex) . **L Morris 1**
5 350102 **BILASH (16) (CD)** A Hollinshead 7 9 6 . . . . . **J Duern (3) 8**
6 100004 **MR MO JO (75) (D)** J L Eyre 6 9 5 . . . . . **C Beasley (3) 3**
7 006140 **TELEGRAPH (IRE) (18)** P Evans 3 9 3 . . . . . **J F Egan 11**
8 421600 **GOADBY (28)** J Holt 3 9 2 . . . . . **G Gibbons 10**
9 006160 **LOUIS VEE (IRE) (7) (CD)** R Brotherton 6 9 2 . . . . . **T Eaves 7**
10 00-000 **SCATTY CAT (IRE) (13) (D)** D Loughnane 4 9 1 . . . . . **12**
11 354314 **YOUR GIFTED (IRE) (7) (CD)** Mrs L Williamson 7 9 0 . . . . . **A Rawlinson (5) 2**
12 000005 **SHIRLEY'S PRIDE (7) (D)** M Appleby 4 8 13 **Hayley Turner 6**
13 006000 **WALTA (IRE) (13) (D)** S Bowring 3 8 13 . . . **E J Walsh (5) 13**

BETTING: 4-1 Give Us A Belle, 5-1 Extreme Supreme, 6-1 Your Gifted, 7-1 Bilash, Mr Mo Jo, 15-2 Shirley's Pride, 12-1 Oil Strike, 16-1 Lexington Rose, Goadby, Scatty Cat, 20-1 others.

KEMPTON PARK — Monday's runners

2.20 — COME JUMP RACING ON BOXING DAY HANDICAP (CLASS 6). £3,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m 2f Penalty Value £2,264.

1 030000 **MOUNTAIN RANGE (IRE) (16) (CD)** W Musson 6 9 5 **C Catlin 9**
2 106045 **TIME SQUARE (FR) (12) (CD)** A Carroll 7 9 5 . . . **J Crowley 3**
3 055360 **LACOCK (61)** S Curran 3 9 4 . . . . . **A Kirby 2**
4 312036 **ESTIBDAAD (IRE) (69) (D)** P Butler 4 9 3 **W Twiston-Davies 1**
5 365046 **UNDERSTORY (USA) (33) (CD)** T McCarthy 7 9 3 **G Baker 14**
6 642303 **TRAVIS BICKLE (IRE) (18)** J Flint 3 8 13 . . . . . **L Keniry 6**
7 246600 **JAZRI (38) (C)** J Bradley 3 8 13 . . . . . **S Drowne 13**
8 135430 **ASSOLUTA (IRE) (33) (D)** S Kirk 3 8 13 . . . . **Renato Souza 11**
9 00-000 **LUNA SUNRISE (11)** T Jarvis 3 8 12 . . . . . **J Vaughan (7) 4**
10 000060 **LLYRICAL (31)** D Haydn Jones 3 8 12 . . . . . **D Probert 10**
11 3600-0 **ASTROWOLF (17)** M Tompkins 3 8 11 . . . . . **8**
12 335004 **RUNAIOCHT (IRE) (27)** P Burgoyne 4 8 11 . . . . . **J Quinn 7**
13 512035 **CLAUDE GREENWOOD (12)** Mrs L Jewell 4 8 9 . . . . . **Shelley Birkett (5) 5**
14 660 **OTTERBRIDGE (14)** B Millman 3 8 6 . . . . . **R Havlin 12**

BETTING: 4-1 Lacock, 6-1 Time Square, 7-1 Runaiocht, 8-1 Claude Greenwood, 10-1 Travis Bickle, Assoluta, Estibdaad, 12-1 Mountain Range, Understory, 16-1 others.

2.50 — DOWNLOAD THE BETVICTOR INSTABET APP CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £2,911.

1 311112 **AQUA ARDENS (GER) (11) (D)** G Baker 6 9 7 . **P Cosgrave 3**
2 200061 **MONSIEUR CHEVALIER (IRE) (9) (D)** J Osborne 7 9 5 **A Kirby 4**
3 041002 **DOC HAY (USA) (11) (D)** L Carter 7 9 4 . **Thomas Brown (3) 5**
4 240061 **TROJAN ROCKET (IRE) (11) (C)(D)** M Wigham 6 9 3 **G Baker 1**
5 232500 **SCHOTTISCHE (44) (D)** D Haydn Jones 4 8 2 . . . **D Probert 2**

BETTING: 15-8 Aqua Ardens, 9-4 Trojan Rocket, 7-2 Doc Hay, 4-1 Monsieur Chevalier, 33-1 Schottische.

3.20 — FOLLOW BETVICTORRACING ON TWITTER NURSERY (CLASS 5). £5,000 added 2YO only 7f Penalty Value £3,234.

1 02031 **BITING BULLETS (USA) (17) (D)** J Hughes 9 7 . . . **M Dwyer 4**
2 5141 **MECADO (IRE) (76)** R Hannon 9 5 . . . . . **C Hardie (3) 1**
3 0535 **DARK WAR (IRE) (17)** J Given 9 1 . . . . . **J Crowley 3**
4 502121 **CHETAN (11) (C)** J Bradley 8 12 . . . . . **L Keniry 2**
5 646005 **INVINCIBLE ZEB (IRE) (25)** R Harris 8 9 **W Twiston-Davies 5**

BETTING: 6-4 Mecado, 5-2 Biting Bullets, 4-1 Chetan, 11-2 Dark War, 16-1 Invincible Zeb.

3.50 — 25 FREE BET AT BETVICTOR.COM MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS 4). £6,300 added 2YO only 1m Penalty Value £4,075.

1 **ANGELS ABOVE (IRE)** J Butler 9 5 . . . . . **P Cosgrave 5**
2 **CAPTAIN KOKO** M Botti 9 5 . . . . . **M Harley 2**
3 0 **GOODBY INHERITENCE (40)** S Durack 9 5 . . . . . **8**
4 2 **GREATEST HITS (USA) (31)** J Gosden 9 5 . . . . . **R Havlin 4**
5 2 **PATHWAY TO HONOUR (21)** C Appleby 9 5 . . . . . **A Kirby 7**
6 **SPERRIN (IRE)** C Appleby 9 5 . . . . . **C Hardie (3) 6**
7 **LEVELLING** J Gosden 9 0 . . . . . **S Drowne 3**
8 **SECRET FANTASIES** P Cole 9 0 . . . . . **J Crowley 1**

BETTING: 5-2 Pathway To Honour, 7-2 Sperrin, Greatest Hits, 5-1 Levelling, 8-1 Captain Koko, 16-1 Angels Above, Secret Fantasies, 33-1 Goodby Inheritence.

4.20 — BOOK CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL TICKETS NOW HANDICAP (DIV 1) (CLASS 6). £3,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m Penalty Value £2,264.

1 600030 **DANA'S PRESENT (33) (CD)** G Baker 5 9 7 . . . **P Cosgrave 6**
2 020050 **BLOODSWEATANDTEARS (27) (D)** W Knight 6 9 6 **G Baker 9**
3 200005 **PARADISE SPECTRE (11)** Miss Z Davison 7 9 6 . . **L Keniry 1**
4 006004 **LITTLE INDIAN (11) (D)** J R Jenkins 4 9 4 . . . . . **5**
5 500060 **RUSSIAN ICE (11) (C)** D Ivory 6 9 3 . . . . . **A Kirby 8**
6 040610 **PORT LAIRGE (16)** J Gallagher 4 9 3 . . . . . **C Catlin 3**
7 050-00 **CROWNING STAR (IRE) (11) (D)** S Woodman 5 9 1 **J Crowley 7**
8 454045 **SKIDBY MILL (IRE) (9) (D)** Mrs L Mongan 4 9 1 . . **L Jones 4**
9 500440 **EASTWARD HO (66) (D)(BF)** Mrs S Humphrey 6 8 12 **Shelley Birkett (5) 11**
10 -00050 **HENRY GRACE (IRE) (5)** J Fox 3 8 7 . . . . . **C Hardie (3) 2**
11 040000 **LA PAIVA (FR) (5)** S Dixon 3 8 6 . . . . . **T Clark (5) 10**

BETTING: 10-3 Little Indian, 5-1 Dana's Present, Russian Ice, 13-2 Bloodsweatandtears, 8-1 Paradise Spectre, Eastward Ho, 11-1 Skidby Mill, 16-1 Port Lairge, La Paiva, Henry Grace, Crowning Star.

4.50 — BOOK CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL TICKETS NOW HANDICAP (DIV 2) (CLASS 6). £3,500 added 3YO PLUS 1m Penalty Value £2,264.

1 553005 **BLACKTHORN STICK (IRE) (21)** J Butler 5 9 7 . . . **L Keniry 2**
2 022220 **EL MIRAGE (IRE) (11) (C)** D Ivory 4 9 7 . . . . . **J Crowley 4**
3 050045 **SEBS SENSEI (IRE) (11)** M Hoad 3 9 5 . . . . . **H Crouch (7) 8**
4 034661 **DIVINE RULE (IRE) (9) (CD)** Mrs L Mongan 6 9 5 . **L Jones 1**
5 256400 **BOSSTIME (IRE) (18)** J Holt 4 9 4 . . . . . **R Havlin 7**
6 006-0 **FERNGROVE (USA) (J29)** J Portman 3 9 3 . . . . . **M Harley 9**
7 450060 **AMBELLA (IRE) (11)** I Williams 4 9 2 . . . . . **S Donohoe 3**
8 536612 **DREAMING AGAIN (11) (CD)** J Fox 4 8 13 . . . **C Hardie (3) 10**
9 600642 **MOVIE MAGIC (12)** J Bridger 3 8 8 . . . . . **W Carson 5**
10 623306 **JACKPOT (11) (D)** B Powell 4 8 7 . . . . . **M Dwyer 6**

BETTING: 11-4 Divine Rule, 5-1 Dreaming Again, Sebs Sensei, 6-1 Blackthorn Stick, 7-1 El Mirage, 8-1 Movie Magic, 11-1 Ambella, 14-1 Jackpot, 25-1 others.

5.20 — DOWNLOAD THE BETVICTOR APP NOW HANDICAP (CLASS 4). £8,000 added 3YO PLUS 7f Penalty Value £5,175.

1 11-04 **EVENING ATTIRE (31) (CD)** W Stone 3 9 7 . . . . . **6**
2 03111 **HOLIDAY MAGIC (IRE) (21) (CD)** C Appleby 3 9 7 . **A Kirby 5**
3 606012 **COOL BAHAMIAN (IRE) (14) (CD)** Eve J-Houghton 3 9 5 . . . **J Fahy 8**
4 231350 **LIGHT FROM MARS (72) (CD)** R Harris 9 9 5 . . . **W Twiston-Davies 3**
5 233610 **BRIGLIADORO (IRE) (30) (CD)** P McBride 3 9 4 . **M Harley 10**
6 000041 **STONEFIELD FLYER (27) (CD)** K Dalgleish 5 9 3 . . **G Baker 2**
7 604000 **DR RED EYE (34) (D)** S Dixon 6 9 1 . . . . . **D Probert 4**
8 213060 **PRETTY BUBBLES (9) (C)(D)** J R Jenkins 5 9 0 . . . . . **7**
9 220250 **PICENO (IRE) (34) (D)** S Dixon 6 8 13 . . . . . **T Clark (5) 1**
10 00-031 **ERTIKAAN (27) (C)(D)** Miss J Ellis 7 8 13 . . . . . **J Crowley 9**

BETTING: 13-8 Holiday Magic, 4-1 Stonefield Flyer, 9-2 Cool Bahamian, 6-1 Ertikaan, 16-1 Dr Red Eye, 20-1 Evening Attire, Brigliadoro, Piceno, Light From Mars, 25-1 Pretty Bubbles.

5.50 — PLAY ROULETTE & BLACKJACK AT BETVICTOR.COM HANDICAP (CLASS 5). £4,500 added 3YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £2,911.

1 004020 **ANOTHER TRY (IRE) (5) (D7)** T Jarvis 9 9 7 . **J Vaughan (7) 6**
2 622000 **SWEET TALKING GUY (IRE) (5) (CD)** Mrs L Pearce 4 9 7 . . **S Pearce (3) 12**
3 265200 **NOVERRE TO GO (IRE) (9) (CD)** R Harris 8 9 7 . . **W Twiston-Davies 1**
4 640330 **ROCKET ROB (IRE) (9) (CD)** W Musson 8 9 6 . . . **C Catlin 7**
5 510010 **HALF WAY (55)** L Carter 3 9 6 . . . . . **Thomas Brown (3) 5**
6 135040 **CLASSIC PURSUIT (7) (CD)** R Harris 3 9 5 . . . . . **M Harley 2**
7 042313 **TYCHAIOS (18) (D)** S C Williams 4 9 4 . . . **Aaron Jones (7) 11**
8 412000 **LADY PHILL (17) (D)** M Attwater 4 9 4 . . . . . **R Havlin 4**
9 340301 **COISTE BODHAR (IRE) (41) (D)** S Dixon 3 9 4 . . . **A Kirby 10**
10 1-4444 **STELLARTA (33)** M Blanshard 3 9 4 . . . . . **D Probert 3**
11 613113 **PHAROH JAKE (42) (CD)** J Bridger 6 9 4 . . . . . **W Carson 9**
12 424510 **DIVINE CALL (9) (CD)** J Bradley 7 9 2 . . . . . **L Keniry 8**

BETTING: 9-2 Pharoh Jake, 5-1 Tychaios, 7-1 Stellarta, 15-2 Coiste Bodhar, 10-1 Another Try, Half Way, Sweet Talking Guy, Rocket Rob, Classic Pursuit, 14-1 others.

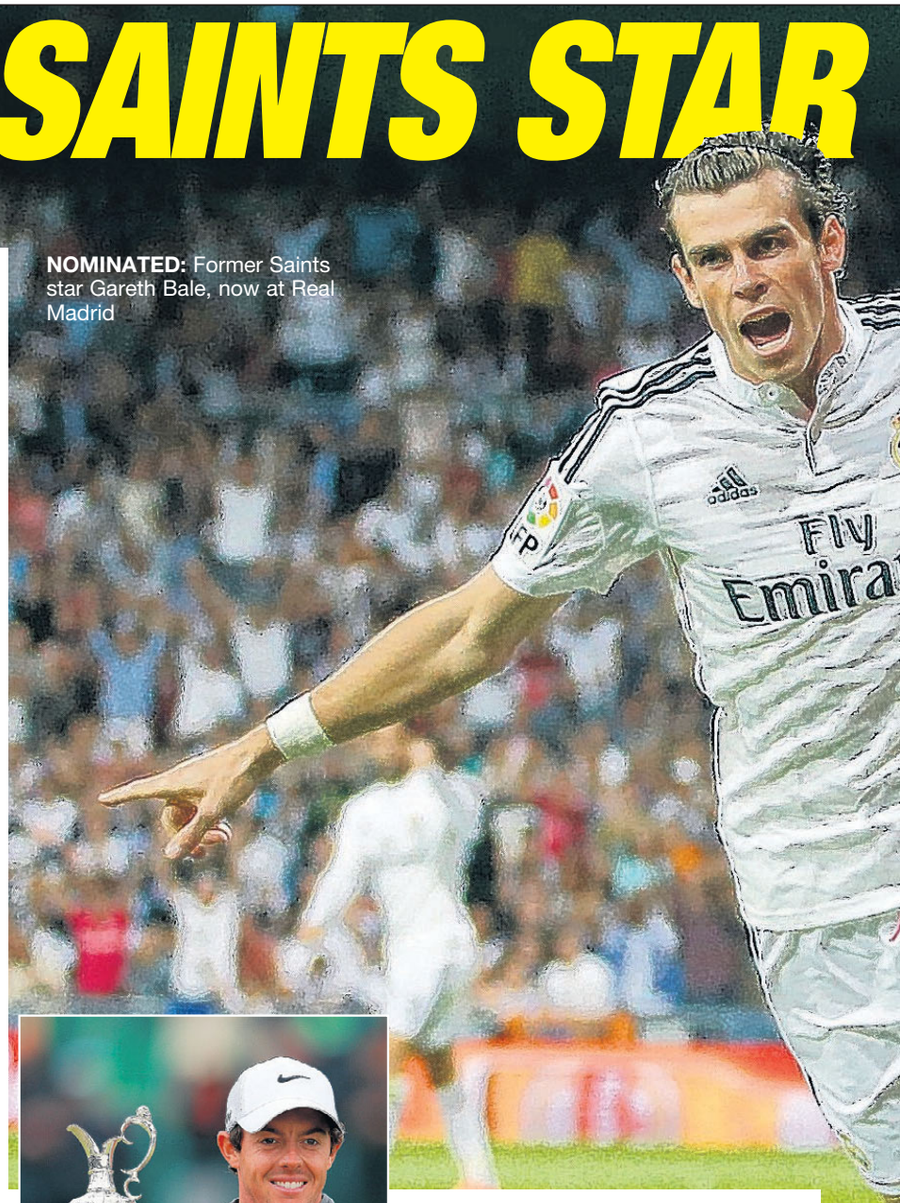
Did You Know?

BBC Sports Personality of the Year winners

1954 Chris Chataway .....Athletics
1955 Gordon Pirie .....Athletics
1956 Jim Laker .....Cricket
1957 Dai Rees .....Golf
1958 Ian Black .....Swimming
1959 John Surtees .....Motorbikes
1960 David Broome ..Show jumping
1961 Stirling Moss .....Formula 1
1962 Anita Lonsbrough ..Swimming
1963 Dorothy Hyman .....Athletics
1964 Mary Rand .....Athletics
1965 Tom Simpson .....Cycling
1966 Bobby Moore .....Football
1967 Henry Cooper .....Boxing
1968 David Hemery .....Athletics
1969 Ann Jones .....Tennis
1970 Henry Cooper .....Boxing
1971 Princess Anne .....Eventing
1972 Mary Peters .....Athletics
1973 Jackie Stewart .....Formula 1
1974 Brendan Foster .....Athletics
1975 David Steele .....Cricket
1976 John Curry .....Ice skating
1977 Virginia Wade .....Tennis
1978 Steve Ovett .....Athletics
1979 Sebastian Coe .....Athletics
1980 Robin Cousins ....Ice skating
1981 Ian Botham .....Cricket
1982 Daley Thompson ....Athletics
1983 Steve Cram .....Athletics
1984 Torvill and Dean ...Ice skating
1985 Barry McGuigan .....Boxing
1986 Nigel Mansell .....Formula 1
1987 Fatima Whitbread ....Athletics
1988 Steve Davis .....Snooker
1989 Nick Faldo .....Golf
1990 Paul Gascoigne .....Football
1991 Liz McColgan .....Athletics
1992 Nigel Mansell .....Formula 1
1993 Linford Christie .....Athletics
1994 Damon Hill .....Formula 1
1995 Jonathan Edwards ...Athletics
1996 Damon Hill .....Formula 1
1997 Greg Rusedski .....Tennis
1998 Michael Owen .....Football
1999 Lennox Lewis .....Boxing
2000 Steve Redgrave .....Rowing
2001 David Beckham .....Football
2002 Paula Radcliffe .....Athletics
2003 Jonny Wilkinson .Rugby union
2004 Kelly Holmes .....Athletics
2005 Andrew Flintoff .....Cricket
2006 Zara Phillips .....Eventing
2007 Joe Calzaghe .....Boxing
2008 Chris Hoy .....Cycling
2009 Ryan Giggs .....Football
2010 Tony McCoy ....Horse racing
2011 Mark Cavendish .....Cycling
2012 Bradley Wiggins .....Cycling
2013 Andy Murray .....Tennis

BALE FACES TOUGH CHALLENGE FROM F1 RACER

IS EX-SAINTS STAR



NOMINATED: Former Saints star Gareth Bale, now at Real Madrid

FORMER Saints starlet Gareth Bale was among the 10 people shortlisted for the BBC Sports Personality of the Year award earlier this week.

The highlight of the Welsh international's year was scoring for Real Madrid in their Champions League final victory over cross-city rivals Atletico back in May.

Rory McIlroy, however, is a strong favourite to round off the most successful spell of his career with the Sports Personality prize.

McIlroy, who won the final two majors of the year as well as helping Europe retain the Ryder Cup, will bid to become the first golfer to win the prestigious award since Nick Faldo in 1989.

But McIlroy could face a stern challenge from Lewis Hamilton, who claimed his second Formula One world title in Abu Dhabi last weekend and finished second in the voting in both 2007 and 2008.

The winner of the award will be announced at the culmination of the live show on December 14 at the Hydro Arena in Glasgow, following a public vote.

But Scottish fans will have no local favourite to support after last year's winner Andy Murray was left off the final contenders following a year in which he failed to add to his two career grand slam titles.

The shortlist was decided by a panel of former nominees, newspaper sports editors and television sport executives.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at the nominees.

RORY McILROY (2/9 odds with William Hill) - McIlroy swept all before him in 2014, winning back-to-back majors at the Open and the US PGA and helping Great Britain retain the Ryder Cup. In addition, the Northern Ireland star won a world golf title and the BMW PGA title at Wentworth to cement his place as world number one.

LEWIS HAMILTON (3/1) - A two time runner-up in the Sports Personality voting, Hamilton got the better of his Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg to win his second Formula One title in dramatic fashion in Abu Dhabi at the weekend, as he looks to become the first motor racing winner since Damon Hill.

GARETH BALE (20/1) - Bale capped a superb first season at Real Madrid by scoring the second goal in extra time to help see off city rivals Atletico in the UEFA Champions League final in May. He finished his debut season with 22 goals and has maintained his form into his second campaign.

JO PAVEY (30/1) - The indefatigable Pavey rose to the occasion in Zurich where she won the women's 10,000metres to become the oldest female European champion in history at 40 years and 325 days – a statistic made more remarkable by the fact it came just 10 months after giving birth to her second child.

CHARLOTTE DUJARDIN (50/1) - Unsatisfied with her double Olympic gold in 2012, Dujardin continued to conquer all before her on the dressage circuit as she scooped two gold medals and a silver at the European Dressage Championships in Herning, Denmark.

LIZZY YARNOLD (80/1) - Yarnold proved untouchable on the world skeleton circuit, finishing top of the rankings in the World Cup season before soaring to gold at the Winter Olympics in Sochi in February, where she beat her nearest rivals by almost a second over the four runs.

FAVOURITE: Rory McIlroy

CARL FROCH (100/1) - Froch starred in front of the biggest British boxing crowd since the War at Wembley Stadium in May. More than 80,000 fans watched him clatter George Groves to an eighth round defeat to retain his world super-middleweight title in emphatic fashion.

KELLY GALLAGHER & CHARLOTTE EVANS (GUIDE) (100/1) - Northern Ireland skier Gallagher was crowned Great Britain's first Winter Paralympic champion in Sochi in February after teaming up with Evans to take gold in the women's visually impaired Super G.

ADAM PEATY (100/1) - Peaty enjoyed a golden year in the pool where he won two gold medals at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow before moving on to sweep the board at the European Championships in Berlin with four breaststroke and medley titles.

MAX WHITLOCK (100/1) - Whitlock's busy year began with three golds each at the European Championships and the Commonwealth Games before moving on to the World Championships where he defied injury to take a brilliant silver medal in the men's all-around competition.

FOR ALL THE LATEST SPORTS NEWS - DAILYECHO.CO.UK/SPORT

AND GOLFER IN SPORTS PERSONALITY AWARDS

YOUR WINNER?

IN THE MIX: Lewis Hamilton is McIlroy's most likely challenger for the title

Rory deserves it

The BBC Sports Personality of the Year award will be a straight fight between Rory McIlroy and Lewis Hamilton.

If there is any justice it will be the Northern Irish golfer who walks away with the coveted trophy, *writes ADAM LEITCH.*

It's hard to imagine what more McIlroy could realistically have achieved, having won two Majors and played a large role in helping Europe to retain the Ryder Cup.

Hamilton has won the Formula One world title, which means he will be in the shake up.

In years in which the more popular and glamorous sports have stars who shine they tend to win. Formula One also has a remarkable record of producing winners of the award.

The outsiders only tend to have a chance in times when the mass viewed sports have little of note happening.

Also with the Commonwealth Games having been a success but without the enthusiasm generated by the London Olympics, many sports are ruled out because they just haven't quite pricked the conscience of the general public enough.

CAPTURED HEARTS: Jo Pavey

In fairness, it is actually quite a decent shortlist this year. Only one footballer features, in the shape of Gareth Bale. It is debatable whether he should have got in, though certainly no others footballers could have made the grade.

Carl Froch is also a little fringey for a win over George Groves, but that became a national event.

More interesting are the Winter Olympians.

Kelly Gallagher and guide Charlotte Evans, who were crowned Great Britain's first Winter Paralympic champions when they won the women's visually-impaired Super G in Sochi in March, should be right up there.

First time achievements in sport deserve recognition as well, because you can be certain that the back story to get to that point is inspirational.

Don't rule out Jo Pavey either, due to her mother to medal story having captured the nation's hearts.

However, it should be McIlroy's year.

Did You Know?

BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year winners

1960 Herb Elliott (Australia) . . . . . .Athletics
1961 Valeriy Brumel (Sov) . . . . . .Athletics
1962 Donald Jackson (Canada) . . .Skating
1963 Jacques Anquetil (France) . . . .Cycling
1964 Abebe Bikila (Ethopia) . . . . . .Athletics
1965 Ron Clarke (Australia) . . . . . .Athletics
1965 Gary Player (South Africa) . . . . . .Golf
1966 Eusébio (Portugal) . . . . . .Football
1966 Garfield Sobers (Barbados) . . .Cricket
1967 George Moore (Australia) Horse racing
1968 Oleg Protopopov (Sov) . . . . . .Skating
1968 Ludmila Belousova (Sov) . . . . Skating
1969 Rod Laver (Australia) . . . . . .Tennis
1970 Pelé (Brazil) . . . . . .Football
1971 Lee Trevino (USA) . . . . . .Golf
1972 Olga Korbut (Sov Union) . .Gymnastics
1973 Muhammad Ali (USA) . . . . . .Boxing
1974 Muhammad Ali (USA) . . . . . .Boxing
1975 Arthur Ashe (USA) . . . . . .Tennis
1976 Nadia Comăneci (Rom) . . .Gymnastics
1977 Niki Lauda (Austria) . . . . . .Formula 1
1978 Muhammad Ali (USA) . . . . . .Boxing
1979 Björn Borg (Sweden) . . . . . .Tennis
1980 Jack Nicklaus (USA) . . . . . .Golf
1981 Chris Evert (USA) . . . . . .Tennis
1982 Jimmy Connors (USA) . . . . . .Tennis
1983 Carl Lewis (USA) . . . . . .Athletics
1984 Seve Ballesteros (Spain) . . . . . .Golf
1985 Boris Becker (W Germany) . . . .Tennis
1986 Greg Norman (Australia) . . . . . .Golf
1987 Martina Navratilova (USA) . . . . Tennis
1988 Steffi Graf (W Germany) . . . . . .Tennis
1989 Mike Tyson (USA) . . . . . .Boxing
1990 Mal Meninga (Australia) . . .Rugby Lge
1991 Mike Powell (USA) . . . . . .Athletics
1992 Andre Agassi (USA) . . . . . .Tennis
1993 Greg Norman (Australia) . . . . . .Golf
1994 Brian Lara (Trinidad) . . . . . .Cricket
1995 Jonah Lomu (N Zealand) .Rugby union
1996 Evander Holyfield (USA) . . . . . .Boxing
1996 Michael Johnson (USA) . . . . .Athletics
1997 Martina Hingis (Switzerland) . . .Tennis
1998 Mark O'Meara (USA) . . . . . .Golf
1999 Maurice Greene (USA) . . . . . .Athletics
2000 Tiger Woods (USA) . . . . . .Golf
2001 Goran Ivaniševic (Croatia) . . . . .Tennis
2002 Ronaldo (Brazil) . . . . . .Football
2003 Lance Armstrong (USA) . . . . . .Cycling
2004 Roger Federer (Switzerland) . . .Tennis
2005 Shane Warne (Australia) . . . . . .Cricket
2006 Roger Federer (Switzerland) . . .Tennis
2007 Roger Federer (Switzerland) . . .Tennis
2008 Usain Bolt (Jamaica) . . . . . .Athletics
2009 Usain Bolt (Jamaica) . . . . . .Athletics
2010 Rafael Nadal (Spain) . . . . . .Tennis
2011 Novak Djokovic (Croatia) . . . . . .Tennis
2012 Usain Bolt (Jamaica) . . . . . .Athletics
2013 Sebastian Vettel (Germ) . . . .Formula 1

WIN A £15,000 JACKPOT IN FIND THE BALL - SEE PAGE 45

TEN CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

FANCY a spot of festive reading over the forthcoming Christmas period? Here are ten of the best sports books of 2014 ...

Bobby Moore: A Life in Full by Matt Dickinson
Yellow Jersey £20

Bobby Moore was an extraordinary captain and player. Pele called him the greatest – and fairest – defender he ever played against.

His feats for West Ham United and England are legendary and his technical mastery of the game ahead of its time. Few footballers since have come close to his winning combination of intelligence, skill, temperament and class.

Yet off the pitch, Moore knew scandal, divorce and drink.

What about the string of failed businesses, whispers of bad behaviour, links to the East End underworld and turbulent private life?

Ignored by the football world post-retirement, this great of the game drifted into obscurity and, famously, there was no knighthood.

Acclaimed football writer Matt Dickinson traces the journey of this Essex boy who became the patron saint of English football, peeling away the layers of legend and looking at Moore's life from all sides – in triumph, in failure, in full.

Floodlights and Touchlines: A History of Spectator Sport by Rob Steen
Bloomsbury £25

Spectator sport is living, breathing, non-stop theatre for all.

This book offers a thematic history of professional spectator sport and the ingredients that magnetise millions around the globe.

It tells the stories that matter: from the gladiators of Rome to the runners of Rift Valley via the innovator-missionaries of Rugby School; from multi-faceted British exports to the Americanisation of professionalism and the Indianisation of cricket.

Rob Steen traces the development of these sports which captivate the turnstile millions and the mouse-clicking masses. Insightful and revelatory, this is an entertaining exploration of spectator sports' intrinsic place in culture and how sport imitates life - and life imitates sport.

The Second Half by Roy Keane and Roddy Doyle
Weidenfeld & Nicolson £20

As part of a tiny elite of football players, Roy Keane has had a life like no other.

His status as one of football's greatest stars is undisputed, but what of the challenges beyond the pitch?

How did he succeed in coming to terms with life as a former Manchester United and Ireland leader and champion, reinventing himself as a manager and then a broadcaster, and cope with the psychological struggles this entailed?

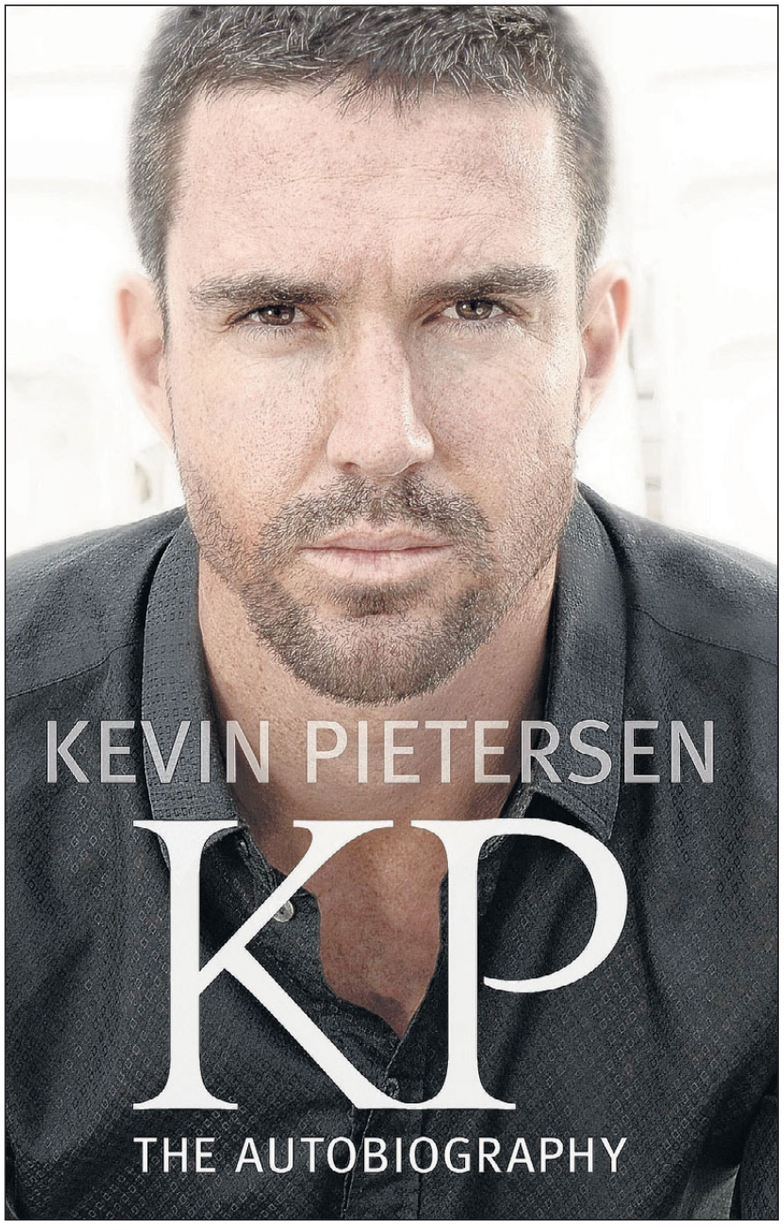
In a stunning collaboration with Booker Prize-winning author Roddy Doyle, *The Second Half* blends anecdote and reflection in Roy Keane's inimitable voice.

The result is an unforgettable personal odyssey which fearlessly challenges the meaning of success.

KP by Kevin Pietersen
Sphere £20

Kevin Pietersen reveals all in his autobiography, telling the stories behind the many highs and lows of his incredible career.

Giving readers the full story of his life, from his childhood in South Africa to his recent experiences as one of the leading lights in the world of international cricket, this is an autobiography that will entertain and fascinate readers in equal measure.



Guy Martin by Guy Martin
Virgin £20

Guy Martin, international road-racing legend, maverick star of the Isle of Man TT, truck mechanic and TV presenter, lives on the edge, addicted to speed, thoroughly exhilarated by danger.

In this book we get inside his head as he stares death in the face, and risks his life in search of the next high.

This thrilling autobiography is an intense and dramatic ride.

From the boy who learned to prep bikes with his dad, to the spirited team mechanic, paying his way by collecting beer glasses in pubs, to the young racer at the start of his first race and the buzz he's been chasing ever since.

Playing It My Way by Sachin Tendulkar
Hodder and Stoughton £25

The greatest run-scorer in the history of cricket, Sachin Tendulkar retired in 2013 after an astonishing 24 years at the top.

Despite his celebrity status, Tendulkar has always remained a very private man, devoted to his family and his country.

Now, for the first time, he provides a fascinating insight into his personal life and gives a frank and revealing account of a sporting life like no other.

The most celebrated Indian cricketer of all time, he received the Bharat Ratna Award – India's highest civilian honour – on the day of his retirement.

Now Sachin Tendulkar tells his own remarkable story – from his first Test cap at the age of 16 to his 100th international century and the emotional final farewell that brought his country to a standstill.

The Test by Brian O'Driscoll
Penguin Ireland £20

Since 1999, when he made his international debut, there has been no greater player in world rugby than Brian O'Driscoll. In 2010 *Rugby World* magazine named him its world player of the decade – and since then the legend has only grown.

Now, at the end of his amazing career – which culminated in fairy-tale fashion with Ireland's victory in the 2014 Six Nations championship – he tells his own story.

Luis Suarez: Crossing The Line
Headline £20

Luis Suarez was a young boy already in love with football by the time his family moved from the countryside to Uruguay's capital, Montevideo.

The guile and trickery of the street kid made an impact with the country's biggest club, Nacional, before he was spotted by Dutch scouts who brought him to Europe.

Suarez was lured from Ajax to Merseyside by another iconic number 7, Kenny Dalglish.

From that moment, he terrorised Premier League defences, driving a resurgent Liverpool towards their most exciting top-flight season in 24 years.

But there is another side to Luis Suarez: the naturally fiery temperament which drives his competitiveness on the pitch.

In *Crossing the Line*, Luis Suarez talks from the heart about his intriguing career, his personal journey from scrapping street kid to performer on football's biggest stage, and the never-say-die attitude that sometimes causes him to overstep the mark.

101 Damnations by Ned Boulting
Yellow Jersey Press £14.99

Join Ned Boulting as he reports on his dozenth Tour de France, an event in which blokes do amazing things on bikes, and, we're oft told, the biggest annual sporting event in the world.

101 Damnations is a chance to relive the 2014 race, stage for stage, fall after fall, tantrum by tantrum; just the good bits mind, without all the aerial shots of castles.

Or sunflowers. (Though it does wax lyrical about some stunning Alpine scenery ...and, with the race starting in Yorkshire, even some stunning scenery not far from Bradford).

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SOUTHERN Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL

THIS WEEK'S JACKPOT £15,000

or £1,000 nearest miss prize...

PLUS 70 consolation prizes of £15 each week

20 for Southern Daily Echo
20 for Daily Echo Bournemouth
10 for Dorset Echo
10 for Sunday Independent
10 for Brighton Argus

FIND THE BALL is a test of skill and football knowledge and is open to readers of the Southampton, Bournemouth, Dorset Echos, Brighton Argus and Sunday Independent, Plymouth.

You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

If the Jackpot is not won, £1,000 will be added to next week's jackpot.

The nearest-miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out each week to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £5,000 and the nearest-miss prize stays at £1,000.

If the Jackpot is not won after 46 weeks, when standing at £50,000, the nearest miss prize of £1,000 will be paid out and the jackpot will remain at £50,000 each week until there is a jackpot winner, then the jackpot starts again at £5,000, with the nearest miss prize remaining at £1,000 each week.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS

CLOSING DATE FOR POSTAL ENTRIES
Thursday 9am, 4 December, 2014
Names of winners will be published on Saturday, 6 December or 7 December 2014

Winners

Competition number **S45**

JACKPOT WINNER **NO WINNER**

CONGRATULATIONS
Mrs M Wheeler, Southampton, Hants
who wins the nearest miss prize of £1,000

The following competitors each receive a consolation prize of **£15**

F Abraham, Southampton, Hants
P Augier, Southampton, Hants
B Andrews, Southampton, Hants
L Bassett, Southampton, Hants
G Blanshard, Southampton, Hants
M Carnegie, Southampton, Hants
R Clarke, Southampton, Hants
C Colville, Fareham, Hants
W Cramer, Netley Abbey, Hants
M Davis, Romsey, Hants
J Franklin, Southampton, Hants
M Hooker, Southampton, Hants
A Keeble, Southampton, Hants
I Keegan, Southampton, Hants
S Limburn, Southampton, Hants
J Morris, Southampton, Hants
M Ryves, Southampton, Hants
B Shergold, Southampton, Hants
C Walsh, Southampton, Hants
G White, Southampton, Hants

Rules

1. You are allowed a minimum of 60 crosses and a maximum of 450 per coupon. Coupons with 451 or more will be disqualified. Entries altered defaced or mutilated will be invalid. Crosses must be distinct and separate. **2.** Competitors may submit as many coupons as they wish. Members of a family can send their entries in one envelope with a covering postal order or cheque. **3.** No responsibility can be accepted for entries delayed, lost or mislaid. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. **4.** Payment may be made by postal order or cheque for the correct amount payable to Newsquest, and crossed '& Co.' Stamps **will not** be accepted in payment. **5.** A competitor cannot win more than one share of the prize money across all titles each week. **6.** The Editor's decision on winning entry or entries and matters relating to this competition is binding in honour only. NO CORRESPONDENCE CAN BE ENTERED INTO. **7.** Employees of NEWSQUEST Media Group and subsidiary companies and members of their families are not eligible to enter the competition. **8.** Address entries to FTB, Newspaper House, Test Lane, Southampton, SO16 9JX in a sealed envelope. Understamped entries are not accepted. **9.** Prize monies are held for and on behalf of winners. **10.** Do not send cash in the post. **11.** Winners will be required to participate in publicity. **12.** Photocopies not accepted. **13.** For rules go to www.dailyecho.co.uk/promotions/rules, www.newsquest.co.uk/terms or write in for a copy. **14.** If you pay by cheque your prize money will be paid to you once cheque has cleared.

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE ONLY

An incident in an Eastleigh v Halifax match

SAVE POSTAGE
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Deadlines for branch office collection boxes are as follows:
Bournemouth Echo 12 noon Tuesday
Southern Daily Echo 12noon Tuesday
Dorset Echo Closing time Monday

Deadlines for selected newsagents collection boxes as listed in:
Bournemouth Echo closing time Monday
Southern Daily Echo 10.00 am Tuesday
Dorset Echo Closing time Monday

A list of participating newsagents will be published in the Echos on the first Saturday of each month

Please use black/blue ink and capitals **29 November, 2014**

TITLE ☐ MR ☐ MRS ☐ MISS ☐ MS
FIRST NAME
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ADDRESS
POSTCODE
DAYTIME TELEPHONE

S46

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Do you have the paper home delivered? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Please cross box

☐ 60 CROSSES	£1
☐ 125 CROSSES	£2
☐ 200 CROSSES	£3
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☐ 450 CROSSES	£5

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SOUTHERN Daily Echo

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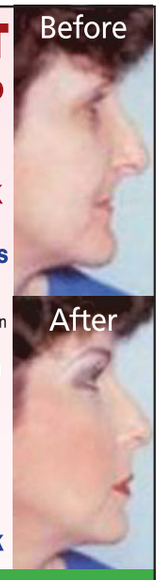

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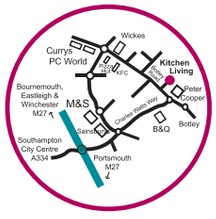

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CASH PRIZE EVERY WEEK

Runner-up will win at least £1,000

Southern Daily Echo
dailyecho.co.uk

Barclays Premier League

Burnley 1 **A. Villa** 1
Ings 87 pen — Cole 38
HT 0-1

Liverpool 1 **Stoke** 0
Johnson 85
HT 0-0 — Att 44,735

Man Utd 3 **Hull** 0
Smalling 16, Rooney 42 — HT 2-0
van Persie 66 — Att 75,345

Q.P.R. 3 **Leicester** 2
Morgan 37 og — Cambiasso 4
Fer 45, Austin 73 — Schlupp 67
HT 2-1 — Att 18,054

Sunderlnd L **Chelsea** L
HT L-L

Swansea 1 **Crystal P** 1
Bony 15 — Jedinak 25 pen
HT 1-1 — Att 20,240

W.B.A. 0 **Arsenal** 1
HT 0-0 — Welbeck 60

West Ham 1 **Newcastle** 0
Cresswell 56
HT 0-0 — Att 34,977

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
		HOME					AWAY					
Chelsea	12	6	0	0	15	3	4	2	0	15	8	32
SAINTS	**12**	**5**	**1**	**0**	**17**	**1**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**7**	**5**	**26**
Man City	12	4	1	1	11	5	3	2	1	13	8	24
Man Utd	13	5	1	1	14	5	1	3	2	8	10	22
West Ham	13	4	1	2	9	6	2	2	2	12	10	21
Arsenal	13	2	3	1	11	8	3	2	2	10	7	20
Swansea	13	4	2	1	11	5	1	2	3	6	9	19
Newcastle	13	3	2	1	8	7	2	2	3	6	9	19
Everton	12	2	2	2	12	12	2	3	1	10	7	17
Tottenham	12	2	0	4	7	8	3	2	1	9	9	17
Liverpool	13	3	2	2	7	6	2	0	4	9	12	17
Stoke	13	2	1	3	6	7	2	2	3	7	9	15
Crystal P	13	2	1	3	8	9	1	3	3	10	13	13
W.B.A.	13	1	3	3	10	11	2	1	3	3	7	13
Sunderlnd	12	1	4	1	7	7	1	3	2	5	12	13
A. Villa	13	1	2	3	4	9	2	2	3	3	9	13
Hull	13	1	2	3	8	10	1	3	3	6	10	11
Q.P.R.	13	3	2	2	12	10	0	0	6	2	15	11
Burnley	13	1	3	3	5	10	1	2	3	4	11	11
Leicester	13	1	4	1	10	9	1	0	6	3	12	10

SkyBet Championship

Birminghm 2 **Nottm For** 1
Cotterill 10 — Assombalonga 84
Caddis 89 pen
HT 1-0 — Att 18,595

Bolton 1 **Huddersfld** 0
Davies 67
HT 0-0 — Att 15,924

CHERRIES 2 **Millwall** 2
Cook 22 — Upson 75
Pitman 25 — Gueye 88
HT 2-0 — Att 10,016

Brentford 4 **Wolves** 0
Judge 29, Dallas 74
Gray 82, Jota 90
HT 1-0 — Att 10,923

Brighton 1 **Fulham** 2
Bent 52 — Rodallega 62
Christensen 77
HT 0-0 — Att 28,802

Charlton 0 **Ipswich** 1
N Hunt 90
HT 0-0 — Att 16,613

Leeds Utd 2 **Derby Cty** 0
Antenucci 43,50
HT 1-0 — Att 26,028

Middlesbro 1 **Blackburn** 1
Bamford 83 — Gestede 90
HT 0-0 — Att 18,152

Norwich 1 **Reading** 2
Hooper 10 — Cooper 14,45
HT 1-2 — Att 26,002

Rotherham 1 **Blackpool** 1
Bowery 78 — Davies 85
HT 0-0 — Att 9,381

Sheff Wed 2 **Wigan** 1
May 27,71 — McCann 26
HT 1-1 — Att 20,609

Watford 0 **Cardiff** 1
Le Fondre 12
HT 0-1 — Att 15,668

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
		HOME					AWAY					
Derby Cty	19	5	3	1	20	8	5	2	3	15	11	35
Ipswich	19	6	2	1	14	6	3	5	2	14	13	34
Brentford	19	6	3	1	18	10	4	1	4	12	14	34
CHERRIES	**19**	**5**	**3**	**2**	**17**	**12**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**20**	**8**	**33**
Middlesbro	19	4	4	2	17	7	5	2	2	11	7	33
Blackburn	19	5	3	1	17	11	3	4	3	13	15	31
Watford	19	5	3	2	21	12	3	2	4	10	10	29
Cardiff	19	7	0	2	18	11	1	5	4	6	11	29
Nottm For	19	4	3	2	18	13	3	4	3	12	12	28
Charlton	19	4	5	1	11	8	2	5	2	9	11	28
Norwich	19	3	5	2	17	13	4	1	4	12	11	27
Wolves	19	5	2	2	11	9	2	4	4	11	20	27
Sheff Wed	19	2	5	3	5	9	3	5	1	9	6	25
Reading	19	5	1	3	17	11	2	2	6	8	19	24
Leeds Utd	19	5	3	2	14	8	1	2	6	9	18	23
Fulham	19	4	2	3	14	7	2	2	6	16	27	22
Birminghm	19	3	3	4	9	18	2	4	3	8	12	22
Bolton	19	5	2	3	17	12	1	1	7	5	16	21
Huddersfld	19	3	4	2	12	11	2	2	6	13	21	21
Millwall	19	3	3	3	13	13	1	5	4	8	13	20
Rotherham	19	3	3	4	10	14	1	4	4	6	12	19
Brighton	19	2	5	3	10	11	1	4	4	11	14	18
Wigan	19	2	6	1	12	8	1	2	7	8	17	17
Blackpool	19	1	2	6	5	12	0	4	6	8	19	9

SkyBet League One

Barnsley 1 **Scunthorpe** 2
Trotta 29 — Madden 30,45
HT 1-2 — Att 9,340

Bradford 3 **Leyton O** 1
Knott 42, Clarke 79 — Mooney 74
Stead 81
HT 1-0 — Att 12,489

Coventry 0 **Walsall** 0
HT 0-0 — Att 8,076

Crawley 1 **Chesterfld** 1
Tomlin 70 — Roberts 59
HT 0-0 — Att 2,459

Crewe 1 **Doncaster** 1
Ikpeazu 30 — Coppinger 80
HT 1-0 — Att 4,530

Gillingham 2 **Port Vale** 2
Egan 29,55 — N'Guessan 18
Brown 90
HT 1-1 — Att 4,799

M K Dons 6 **Colchester** 0
Alli 11, Afobe 37,45,58 — HT 3-0
Reeves 67 pen — Att 7,646
Hodson 90

Rochdale 0 **Oldham** 3
HT 0-1 — Johnson 24,80
Att 7,269 — Forte 72 pen

Swindon 1 **Fleetwood Town** 0
Gladwin 86
HT 0-0 — Att 10,506

Yeovil 0 **Preston** 2
Huntington 5
Gallagher 90
HT 0-1 — Att 4,343

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
		HOME					AWAY					
Bristol C	19	6	2	1	16	8	5	4	1	20	11	39
Swindon	19	6	3	1	20	11	5	2	2	16	9	38
Preston	19	5	3	1	18	11	6	1	3	14	8	37
M K Dons	17	7	2	1	26	9	3	2	2	12	9	34
Sheff Utd	18	4	3	2	11	8	5	1	3	14	13	31
Oldham	19	5	3	1	15	10	2	6	2	13	10	30
Notts Cnty	18	3	2	4	12	12	5	4	0	13	5	30
Rochdale	19	3	2	5	11	12	5	1	3	21	12	27
Peterboro	19	4	2	4	14	15	4	1	4	12	9	27
Bradford	19	3	2	5	13	15	4	3	2	13	10	26
Fleetwood T	19	4	4	1	11	7	3	0	7	8	11	25
Chesterfld	19	4	3	2	13	11	2	4	4	13	15	25
Walsall	19	3	4	2	9	5	2	4	4	6	11	23
Port Vale	19	4	2	3	14	12	2	3	5	11	15	23
Barnsley	18	3	1	5	18	20	3	3	3	10	10	22
Doncaster	17	1	3	4	5	11	5	1	3	13	13	22
Crawley	19	4	3	3	11	15	1	4	4	8	14	22
Coventry	19	4	3	3	12	13	1	3	5	9	15	21
Leyton O	19	1	3	5	10	14	3	4	3	14	15	19
Gillingham	19	4	4	2	14	12	0	3	6	6	15	19
Scunthorpe	18	2	1	5	7	14	3	3	4	16	19	19
Colchester	19	2	2	5	10	14	2	3	5	14	20	17
Yeovil	19	1	4	5	5	15	3	1	5	9	15	17
Crewe	19	3	2	5	9	17	1	2	6	6	20	16

SkyBet League Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
		HOME					AWAY					
Wycombe	19	4	3	2	11	9	7	2	1	20	8	38
Luton	19	7	1	2	14	4	4	3	2	9	8	37
Shrewsbry	19	9	1	0	22	3	2	2	5	8	12	36
Burton Albion	19	6	1	2	11	7	5	1	4	14	15	35
Southend	19	5	3	2	11	5	5	1	3	10	10	34
Plymouth	19	7	2	1	17	3	2	2	5	5	8	31
Newport C	19	4	4	1	16	11	4	3	3	12	10	31
Bury	19	7	0	3	17	10	2	3	4	10	13	30
Exeter	19	3	4	2	13	12	5	2	3	14	13	30
Cambridge	19	5	0	4	18	10	3	3	4	13	14	27
Morecambe	19	4	2	3	9	10	4	1	5	11	11	27
POMPEY	**19**	**6**	**2**	**1**	**18**	**6**	**1**	**3**	**6**	**4**	**16**	**26**
Acc Stanley	19	6	1	3	17	13	2	1	6	11	19	26
Stevenage	19	6	1	3	18	11	1	3	5	9	16	25
Northmptn	19	5	1	3	17	12	2	2	6	10	15	24
Wimbledon	19	4	3	3	16	13	2	3	4	8	14	24
Cheltnham	19	3	4	3	10	12	3	1	5	8	16	23
Mansfield	19	5	1	3	10	8	1	3	6	5	16	22
Oxford Utd	19	3	3	3	10	8	2	3	5	10	16	21
Dagenham	19	3	0	6	12	15	3	3	4	13	15	21
York	19	0	6	3	6	9	3	4	3	12	14	19
Carlisle	19	4	2	4	17	17	1	1	7	8	20	18
Tranmere	19	2	4	4	12	13	1	2	6	7	13	15
Hartlepool	19	1	3	6	7	17	2	0	7	7	17	12

AFC Wimbledon 1 **Cambridge** 2
Tubbs 2 — Appiah 12, Hughes 58
HT 1-1 — Att 4,306

Bury 0 **Dagenham** 2
Jakubiak 55, Cureton 74
HT 0-0 — Att 3,042

Carlisle 2 **Newport County** 3
Potts 52 — Klukowski 9
Amoo 90 — Yakubu 47, Jeffers 90
HT 0-1 — Att 3,642

Cheltnham 1 **Oxford Utd** 1
Harrison 52 — Barnett 61
HT 0-0 — Att 3,002

Hartlepool 1 **Wycombe** 3
Harewood 84 — Cowan-Hall 33
HT 0-1 — Bloomfield 76
Att 3,053 — Mawson 79

Luton 3 **Mansfield** 0
Benson 19
Whalley 59,63
HT 1-0 — Att 8,418

Plymouth 1 **York** 1
B Reid 3 — Hyde 90
HT 1-0 — Att 6,808

Shrewsbry 1 **Burton Albion** 0
Akpa Akpro 82
HT 0-0 — Att 5,170

Southend 2 **Northmptn** 0
Corr 69 pen
Worrall 79
HT 0-0 — Att 5,500

Stevenage 1 **Morecambe** 1
Walton 62 pen — Amond 85
HT 0-0 — Att 2,464

Tranmere 3 **POMPEY** 1
Fenelon 2 — Wallace 57
Rowe 68
Power 78
HT 1-0 — Att 5,163

SIGN OF DISSENT: An Arsenal fan holds up a poster in the stands which reads 'Enough is Enough Wenger Out' during his side's 1-0 win over West Bromwich Albion earlier today.

Scottish Cup Fourth Round

Alloa 1 **Hibernian** 2
Meggatt 15 — Craig 28, Gray 37
HT 1-2 — Att 2,138

Annan Athletic 1 **Brechin** 1
Hopkirk 60 — Hamilton 42
HT 0-1 — Att 440

Berwick 1 **Albion R** 1
Lavery 9 — M Dunlop 84
HT 1-0 — Att 439

Boness Utd 0 **Arbroath** 5
HT 0-1 — Murray 28,69,75
Att 1,769 — McManus 68,76

Dundee 2 **Aberdeen** 1
Konrad 4 — Konrad 17 og
Clarkson 90
HT 1-1 — Att 5,956

Falkirk 1 **Cowdenbth** 0
Sibbald 73
HT 0-0 — Att 1,237

Motherwell 1 **Dundee Utd** 2
Ojamaa 7 — Souttar 66, Watson 82
HT 1-0 — Att 4,827

Partick 2 **Hamilton** 0
Stevenson 19,54
HT 1-0 — Att 2,467

Queen Sth 4 **Brora** 1
Lyle 3, Reilly 61 — Greig 65
Russell 71
Kidd 80
HT 1-0 — Att 1,434

Spartans 2 **Morton** 1
Bremner 71 — Barrowman 25
Beesley 90
HT 0-1 — Att 1,288

St Johnstn 2 **Ross Cnty** 1
O'Halloran 7 — Jervis 63
McFadden 12
HT 2-0 — Att 2,383

St Mirren 1 **Inverness CT** 1
McAusland 17 — Meekings 63
HT 1-0 — Att 1,957

Stirling A 0 **Raith** 2
HT 0-1 — McKay 44
Att 912 — Anderson 54

Stranraer 2 **Dunfrmline** 2
Gibson 80 — Geggan 14
Malcolm 90 — Buchanan 61
HT 0-1 — Att 639

Scottish League Two

Clyde 0 **Queen Park** 2
E Stirling 1 **East Fife** 1

Vanarama Conference

AFC Telford 1 **Grimsby** 1
Altrncham 2 **Kiddrmnstr** 1
Barnet 3 **Macclesfld** 1
Bristol R 2 **Welling U** 0
FC Halifax 2 **Alfreton Town** 0
Forest Grn 2 **Dartford** 1
Gateshead 1 **Dover** 2
Lincoln City 1 **Southport** 0
Nuneaton 3 **Chester FC** 2
Torquay 2 **EASTLEIGH** 0
Woking 1 **Braintree Town** 0
Wrexham 3 **Aldershot** 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
		HOME					AWAY					
Barnet	24	8	1	3	29	12	7	3	2	24	10	49
Grimsby	24	6	3	3	20	7	5	5	2	19	12	41
Bristol R	23	8	3	1	16	6	3	5	3	12	14	41
Woking	22	5	4	2	18	11	6	2	3	19	12	39
Macclesfld	23	8	4	0	19	6	2	5	4	9	13	39
Forest Grn	22	5	4	2	17	12	4	6	1	14	11	37
Torquay	22	6	4	1	22	10	4	1	6	18	19	35
FC Halifax	22	7	2	2	24	12	3	3	5	10	12	35
Gateshead	22	6	2	3	21	18	3	6	2	15	12	35
Kiddrmnstr	23	6	3	2	18	10	3	4	5	11	14	34
EASTLEIGH	**20**	**7**	**3**	**0**	**21**	**11**	**2**	**3**	**5**	**12**	**16**	**33**
Wrexham	23	5	2	4	15	13	4	4	4	14	14	33
Dover	23	6	1	4	14	7	3	3	6	17	25	31
Lincoln City	22	6	3	3	18	14	2	3	5	17	22	30
Aldershot	23	5	2	4	14	13	3	4	5	12	14	30
Chester FC	23	6	2	3	12	15	3	1	8	18	25	30
Altrncham	23	5	2	5	13	18	3	2	6	13	23	28
Braintree T	24	5	3	4	12	8	3	0	9	12	18	27
Welling U	23	4	6	1	17	11	2	1	9	10	21	25
Southport	22	3	2	6	12	20	3	3	5	12	17	23
Dartford	23	3	6	3	16	17	1	2	8	7	19	20
Nuneaton	22	5	2	4	16	18	0	1	10	3	24	18
Alfreton T	22	3	2	5	14	18	2	0	10	5	25	17
AFC Telford	22	2	3	7	17	26	1	2	7	10	23	14

Grey panels indicate High-scoring games

Local non-league results

VANARAMA CONFERENCE
Premier: AFC Telford 1 Grimsby 1
Altrincham 2 Kidderminster 1
Barnet 3 Macclesfield 1
Bristol Rovers 2 Welling 0
FC Halifax 2 Alfreton Town 0
Forest Green 2 Dartford 1
Gateshead 1 Dover 2
Lincoln City 1 Southport 0
Nuneaton 3 Chester 2
Torquay 2 Eastleigh 0
Woking 1 Braintree Town 0
Wrexham 3 Aldershot 1
FA TROPHY
Third round – qualifying (selected ties):
Basingstoke 1 Whitehawk 0
Sholing 1 Farnborough 2
Havant & Waterlooville 2 East Thurrock Utd 1
Peacehaven & Telscombe 0 Gosport Borough 4
Staines Town 3 Poole Town 3
Weymouth 3 Cray Wanderers 1
Wimborne Town 4 AFC Hornchurch 2
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE
Premier Division: Burnham 0 Chippenham Town 0
Chesham Utd 1 Dunstable 3
Cirencester 1 Biggleswade Town 1
Corby 1 Bideford 2
Histon 2 Paulton Rovers 1
Hitchin 1 Frome Town 1
Hungerford Town 2 Arlesey 0
Division One South & West:
Bashley 0 Swindon Supermarine 4
Bishops Cleeve 0 Taunton Town 4
Cinderford 3 Fleet Town 0
Evesham Utd 1 Shortwood Utd 0
Mangotsfield 0 Larkhall Athletic 1
Stratford pp Clevedon Town
Wantage Town 0 Bridgwater Town 1
Yate Town 0 Tiverton Town 0
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE
Premier: Bemerton HH 1 Alresford Town 1
Blackfield & Langley 4 Brockenhurst 1
Bournemouth Poppies 1 Andover Town 2
Christchurch pp AFC Portchester
Folland Sports 3 Fareham Town 0
Hamworthy Utd 3 Totton & Eling 3
Petersfield Town pp Lymington Town
Verwood Town0v Fawley 1
Whitchurch Utd 0 Moneyfields 4
Winchester City 2 Horndean 3
SWL Cup:
Newport IoW 4 Amesbury Town 2 (aet)
Division One:
Andover New Street 0 Ringwood Town 3
Downton A-A Romsey Town
East Cowes Vics 0 New Milton Town 4
Pewsey Vale 0 Hythe & Dibden 1
Tadley Calleva 0 Team Solent 4
US Portsmouth 0 Laverstock & Ford 1
Fleet Spurs 1 Cowes Sports 1
WYVERN COMBINATION LEAGUE
Premier: AFC Portchester 4 Wimborne Town 1
Moneyfields 3 AFC Totton 1
East Division: Fareham Town pp Newport IOW
West Division:
Fawley 8 East Cowes Vics 1
Lymington Town 6 Blackfield & Langley 2
Romsey Town pp Bashley
Wyvern Shield League Phase
(D) Hythe & Dibden pp Folland Sports
PUMA ENGINEERING HANTS PREMIER LEAGUE
Premier: Baffins Milton Rovers 2 Headley Utd 3
Colden Common 2 QK Soton 3
Fleetlands 0 Otterbourne 2
Hamble Club 5 Overton Utd 1
Hedge End Rangers 2 Clanfield 3
Liphook Utd 6 Winchester Castle 1
Liss Athletic 4 Locks Heath 3
Paulsgrove 4 Bush Hill 3
Stockbridge 2 AFC Stoneham 2
Division One: Hayling Utd 3 Netley Central Sports 2
Infinity pp Andover Lions
Lyndhurst 1 Broughton 0
Michelmersh & Timsbury 5 Cadnam Utd 4
Upham pp Four Marks
Puma Engineering Combination Cup – first round: QK Soton Res 0 Hedge End Rangers Res 1
Combination Division:
AFC Stoneham 0 Paulsgrove 0
Clanfield 3 Liphook Utd 1
Headley Utd 0 Hamble Club 1
Otterbourne 3 Liss Athletic 2
Winchester Castle 0 Overton Utd 2
DREW SMITH GROUP SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE
Senior League Cup – first round:
Durley 1 Braishfield 2 (aet)
Senior Cup – second round:
Bishopstoke 3 Chamberlayne 2
Comrades 2 Solent Saints 1
Premier: BTC Soton 1 Burridge AFC 1
Hedge End Town 2 Nursling 2
Real FC 1 Soton University 2
Senior 1: Bishops Waltham Dyn 3 AFC Gulf Western 0
BTC Soton Res 3 Langley Manor 5
Compton 4 Comrades Res 0

POOLS CHECK

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	3●	1	1	1	L	L	3●	L	1	1	1	3●	1	1	1	1	3●	1	3●	1	1	1	1	2	3●
	1	2	1	1	L	L	3●	L	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	3●	1	1	1	2	2

	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
	3●	3●	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	3●	1	1	3●	1	1	3●	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	1	3●	1	2	1	2	1	3●	2	1	2	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2

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